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12 November 1982

NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

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CALL FOR NEW INVESTMENT BODY

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 35, 18 Oct 82 pp 4-5

[Text]

The Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the UAE has called on Arab countries enjoying financial surpluses to coordinate their investment policies, the official Qatar news agency reported from Dubai. A study sponsored by the organisation on the role of Arab financial surpluses in the development of Arab exports recommends the establishment of a new body to be known as the High Arab Investment Authority. Endowed with substantial capital, its function would be to channel a large proportion of surplus Arab funds into development projects in the Arab world, especially in such areas as transport, agriculture, industry and trade.

The study also recommended the formation of an Arab export bank to stimulate inter-Arab trade, using surplus Arab funds to provide guarantees for exporters. Such a bank could also coordinate the activities of financial and developmental institutions, both Arab and international.

The UAE Union of Chambers of Commerce argued that Arab surpluses could be used not only to develop and encourage Arab exports, but also to promote Arab economic development in general. The positive effects of growth in various economic sectors would themselves stimulate inter-Arab trade. The Union called for the abolition of all trade barriers among Arab countries and stressed that all should adhere to Arab agreements.

CSO: 4400/49

PERSIAN GULF AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

GCC TO ABOLISH CUSTOMS DUTIES--Customs duties on goods traded between the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council will be lifted on December 1, in accordance with an agreement on economic unity signed at the second summit of GCC leaders in Riyadh last November. Announcing the move in the Saudi Arabian capital, Ibrahim Hamoud al-Subhi, GCC Secretary-General for Political Affairs, said that the measure permitting Gulf citizens to move their goods and transfer their capital freely within the area constituted a first step towards unity among the six nations of the GCC. These are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE. Several months ago, the GCC abolished visa requirements for citizens travelling within the community. [Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 35, 18 Oct 82 p 6]

CSO: 4400/49

NEW ECONOMY MINISTER URGES INCREASE IN EXPORTS

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in Arabic No 714, 20 Sep 82 pp 24-25

[Interview with Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id, minister of economy, by Kamal Jaballah:
"Minister of Economy Speaks About Phase of Solutions and of Increasing Exports;
There Is No Cause for Concern and Fear; Egyptian Economy Has Not Yet Entered
Danger Point Because of Debts; Need to Develop Agricultural and Industrial
Exports as Basic Sources of Foreign Currency"]

[Text] Two weeks after taking over the Ministry of Economy, Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id, the new minister of economy, talked to AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI about his approach in dealing with the problems of the Egyptian economy.

He talked about the flaw in the currency policies and exchange prices, about how to develop Egyptian exports to correct the flaw in the balance of payments, about the recent market situation and about some people's allegations that there is a recession.

[Question] At the outset, we wonder about Egypt's problem in securing foreign exchange.

[Answer] Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id says that any attempt to study Egypt's sources of foreign currency and the development of these sources should not stop at a few years back. If we want to review the development of foreign currency sources, it would be beneficial to do so starting with 1974.

It is a basic fact that from 1974 to 1980, Egypt's foreign currency revenues rose steadily, especially from the main four sources, namely: Remittances from Egyptians abroad, oil, tourism and the Suez Canal. But what happened in 1981 is that world oil prices began to drop. Whereas the price per barrel had been nearly \$40 it dropped gradually to \$28 per barrel. With the drop in the prices and the drop in Iraq's and Iran's exports, the Suez Canal traffic was affected.

Revenues from oil and the Suez Canal dropped in 1981 and in the current year. As for tourism, its revenues also dropped in the wake of last October's events. Despite this drop, these revenues are still higher than they were in the mid-1970's.

There is no doubt that these facts indicate the need to look for new foreign currency sources in Egypt, especially by encouraging industrial and semi-industrial exports and exports of conventional goods.

[Question] What is the ideal way to use the loans obtained by Egypt?

[Answer] There is an important fact, namely, that Egypt has not used some of the loans it obtained. There are some difficulties involved in the use of these loans. One may be the conditions set for their use, such as the condition that a loan be used for the purchase of goods or raw materials from the country advancing the loan. It then becomes clear that the prices of these goods are higher than those of similar goods. In such a case, the state refrains from using these loans.

The failure to use a loan may also be due to the laxity of the executive authority handling the loan.

[Question] With the increasing amount of Egypt's foreign debts, has the Egyptian economy approached the danger point because of these debts?

[Answer] To be able to judge whether the state has reached the danger point or not, it is necessary to study numerous factors. We must know the economy's export capability. If this capability has increased, then the economy can absorb a degree of borrowing because it will repay through its exports. We must also know the nature of the projects for which the loans are to be used. Are they projects capable of generating exports in the coming stage and are they projects capable of replacing imports or not?

If we consider the world as a whole, we find that the use of loans by the developing countries as a means of achieving development is something that is agreed on. The difference between one country and another is how these loans are used. Are they used to finance production projects or consumption projects? It can be said that despite the rising amount of the Egyptian loans in the past 7 years, the situation has not yet reached the danger point, considering that the proportion of the loans to the Egyptian economy's export capability and to the percentage of the loans and the interest that has to be paid is still within what the Egyptian economy can meet, as is evident from the continued regular payment of the interest and installments of the loans.

However, the economy in the long-range is supposed to reach the position where it can intrinsically generate all its foreign currency needs without relying on loans. But as a phased approach, there is no objection to the use of loans, provided that they are used for developmental goals.

[Question] What is the fate of the export strategy that the ministry had begun to prepare?

[Answer] One of the main inclinations of the economic policy in the coming phase is to focus on eliminating all obstacles in the face of exportation and to offer incentives to enhance export capabilities.

[Question] Let us return to Egypt's economic problems. Do you have a program to overcome them?

[Answer] The talk about Egypt's economic problems has been totally exhausted. We all know about the increasing amount of debt of the weak export capability, the

deficit in the general budget and the deficit in the balance of payments. All these problems have become "memorized." Attention must be now devoted to solutions.

[Question] How will the gaps existing between production and consumption, between saving and investment, between exports and imports and between incomes, prices and wage levels be tackled?

[Answer] This question is the crux of our economic problem. But what is currently important in Egypt is to achieve two things:

Assure that all economic activity is advancing steadily within a framework of stability and clarity insofar as the economic goals are concerned.

Make society realize that development and growth are in the interest of all.

[Question] The absence of planning and of an economic administration capable of establishing coordination between the various sectors has had its major impact in intensifying the economic problem. How will the planning be done? Will it be done in a constant centralized manner or will a planning structure be drawn up with flexible programming and with no restrictions?

[Answer] Planning takes several forms. Endorsed planning is the form most suitable for the current situation of the Egyptian economy and for Egypt's circumstances. It is close to the French system.

[Question] What is your interpretation of the so-called (recession) that has developed in the market recently and how do you interpret the fear, anxiety and conflicting economic decisions? How do we bring reassurance to the Egyptian economy?

[Answer] This question presumes the presence of certain cases of anxiety, fear and trouble. But what is the proof? This question reflects what is taking place in the market, without the presence of a proof. However, this cannot be analyzed scientifically and objectively.

To conclude, many are awaiting the executive steps that the minister of economy will adopt in implementing his ideas.

8494

CSO: 4504/15

GOVERNORS' EFFORTS TO ASSIGN MANPOWER DISCUSSED

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 1 Sep 82 p 3

[Article by Fathi Rizq: "Governors Speak of Problem of Right Place; Manpower Nominated Petroleum Engineers To Work in Services; Shipbuilding Engineer Works in Governorate Garage; Educational Policy Must Be Changed; Coordination at all Levels To Stop Problem First"]

[Text] The governorates' local government agencies have a major role in solving the problems of those employed in fields outside their specialization and those who are still looking for the right place in the state utilities in villages, cities and governorates. The spread of concentration of an excess manpower has begun to move from Cairo to the provincial capitals. The government units accept all those appointed to work in them, even if their qualifications are not needed. What is more, there are government agencies that go to extreme excesses and obstruct the transfer of any civil servant who has found a place compatible with his qualifications in another agency or governorate.

AL-AKHBAR has addressed a single question to a number of governors on the dimensions of the problem in the governorates and the way to solve it. Their answers have been very frank.

They have said that they are prepared to solve immediately the problem of any employee or worker working in the wrong place. They have demanded that complete coordination be established between the Ministries of Planning and of Education to supply the needed specializations, to make up for the shortage in the governorates and to focus on creating and developing skilled technical cadres through vocational and technical education of all kinds; through regulating the emigration of skilled labor; through rejecting leave without pay for skilled workers before 7 years of an appointment has passed; through the reassignment of engineers, through surveying the actual needs for specializations; and through guiding education throughout the country to provide the needed numbers of graduates.

Distribution Responsibility

Amin Mitkis, the governor of al-Sharqiyah, has said to me: When you see that we get nearly 7,000 graduates in the governorate annually, although we need

no more than 10 percent of this number; and when you know that we cannot find enough chairs or offices for new employees, then you will not believe that we are not getting enough of the needed specializations. Why? I tell you that the specializations are on paper only.

For example, we needed in 1981 a total of 72 engineers and only 1 engineer showed up to work. Can you believe this! Nobody at all showed up. The funny thing is that those nominated to work in al-Sharqiyah included eight petroleum engineers! Those engineers were supposed to be assigned to the oil areas, companies or organizations but were assigned instead to work in al-Sharqiyah and none of them showed up.

I Have Followed up on the Campaign

I have fully followed up on AL-AKHBAR's campaign and even though I have not yet received any complaints from people working outside their field of specialization, I assure you that we will set up a special office in the governorate to receive any complaint from any employee or worker in any part of the governorate. I will personally supervise to make sure that every employee and worker is in the right place because this will save us big resources, enhance production and create for the employee the proper psychological climate to work and raise his production. I want to say that the time has come to reassign the engineers. New construction activities in al-Sharqiyah are being delayed. We need 400 more engineers to meet the actual needs. There has to be real coordination between the Ministries of Education and of Planning to determine the needs and to direct education to meet these needs. If we had a housing engineer, it would be possible to use his services in numerous projects, including, in addition to housing, new buildings, roads, sewerage and drinking water.

Also for example, al-Sharqiyah University has prepared its plan in accordance with a study on the governorate's need for teachers to meet fully the teacher shortage within 2 years. We need to have coordination and field studies to determine the needs at the level of the local governments and then at the level of the state so that we may have the right man in the right place. It is the opinion of the al-Sharqiyah governor that solving the problem at the level of the state requires determining the needs first and then directing education to meet these needs, with a strong emphasis on the labor market in the Arab countries and on the extent of their need for Egyptian specializations so that we may not be caught by surprise; as we already have, by the emigration of the Egyptian expertise and capabilities to the Arab countries and by the emergence of an enormous vacuum in our facilities. The Ministry of Manpower, and the other agencies, must perform their role so that each graduate may be assigned to work in the right place.

Solving Any Problem Immediately

Bakir Muhammad Bakir, the governor of Suez, has told me: I am ready to solve immediately any problem submitted by any employee or graduate working in his place [sic] and will make the decisions to solve the problem as soon as the complaint is presented. I have followed up the AL-AKHBAR campaign, and the

problem of the right man in the right place is one from which the state's administrative apparatus is suffering as a result of the redtape and of the unjustifiably excessive labor.

We in Suez have begun to utilize the excess labor by training the extra workers employed as messengers and office boys and transferring them to work in the rural sector and in other facilities, such as the water facility, taking into consideration appointment of the worker in as close a location to his place of residence as possible. The goal is to utilize this labor to improve the services and to raise production.

The governor has added: We need to plan education so that we may graduate the specialists required by our real needs. Emphasis must be put with all resources on vocational and technical training. The emigration of technical labor from Egypt must also be regulated. For example, the technical worker should not be permitted to leave his work before the lapse of 7 years of his employment in Egypt so that a shortage similar to the one we are experiencing may not develop [in the future].

The governor of Suez believes that the local governments are done an injustice even though they are the backbone of the state. The agricultural and industrial expansion require numerous specialists and the local governments are suffering from this shortage. Engineers must be reassigned so that a balance may be established and that the numerous new projects may be implemented. The governor has also said that Suez suffers from a shortage of doctors, nursing staff and teachers.

Solution From the Start

The picture is different in Sinai. There is no excess labor and nobody is working in the wrong place, according to Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib, the governor of North Sinai. The administrative apparatus in the governorate offices and in the various service directorates and units is still in the early stage of formation. It is a newly formed apparatus and the instructions are very clear: Any employee transferred to Sinai and any new employee or worker appointed in North Sinai must work in his field of specialization from the beginning.

The governor has said: The issue here is that we want no administrative problems and we have no time to waste on needless problems. The picture here is that we want good skilled labor in all the facilities. We suffer from a shortage in all the specializations, especially a shortage of engineers, generally. We want no employee for whom we do not have work and we want no useless accumulation of labor. So far, we have no cases of people working in the wrong field.

Shipbuilding Engineer in Garage

Sayyid Sarhan, the governor of Port Said, has said in reply to AL-AKHBAR's sole question: I have followed up the AL-AKHBAR campaign. However, we have been working for a time to insure the presence of the right man in the right place, each according to his specialization. I have assigned one of the

governorate officials to receive any complaint from any employee in any sector and to present it to me immediately in order to make a speedy decision to solve it because this step is in the interest of the work and the interest of the employee or the worker.

With a laugh, the governor said: Sometime ago I was discussing the specializations of the engineers in Port Said Governorate because of a severe shortage in the number of engineers. It was a surprise to me to find a shipbuilding engineer working in the governorate garage as a car engineer. I instructed that the man be transferred to a specialized [shipbuilding] company or to one of the maritime companies in Port Said because it is unreasonable to let such an engineer work in the governorate garage.

The governor of Port Said added: In my opinion, the problem requires followup from the start, meaning that we must tie planning to education and determine the actual needs because, generally, we have excess labor in certain specializations and a severe shortage in others.

We fully support the inclination to increase the number of technical education graduates generally. For example, we have coordinated with the Canal University and studies in the business and engineering colleges in Port Said now include the subjects of maritime business management, customs and free zones, with the purpose of supplying the specializations needed by Port Said projects and to make up for the shortage in the business and business management specializations.

Nonexistent Problem

Muhammad Matar, the secretary general of Ismailia Governorate, has assured me that the problem no longer exists in Ismailia and that the reason is that the labor market in the governorate has changed in recent years since the foundation of a large number of investment firms and other local firms which have attracted many of the workers of the governorate agencies, thus reducing the excess labor. This excess did exist before the foundation of 26 firms which are not operating in the various spheres in the governorate.

We have also begun to train the unskilled labor, transforming it into productive labor and distributing it to the various local government units. However, if there are cases of individuals employed in spheres other than their specialization, the governorate is fully prepared to examine and solve the problem immediately so as to insure the presence of the right employee in the right place.

Muhammad Matar added: We need to solve the problem at the level of the state by setting the number of students enrolled in each college in accordance with the actual needs in each field. I say here that it has become necessary to regulate the labor needed by the Arab countries through training and making available the numbers of skilled workers needed to go abroad. A condition should be that the worker not be allowed to go abroad before the lapse of a set period of time, during which he gets adequate training to gain the necessary experience qualifying him to go abroad while, at the same time, maintaining the level of performance and production in the state and in the public sector.

Damietta Governorate

It is the opinion of 'Isam Radi, the governor of Damietta, that the appointment of all graduates to civil service jobs saddles the budget with severe burdens. Moreover, the civil servant does not succeed and does not realize a dignified life. He believes that appointment to civil service jobs must be done in accordance with the work needs while letting the rest of the graduates go to the local labor market. But graduates must be trained in specialized and skilled tasks so that they may meet the needs of the public and private sectors and of the Arab labor market. The appointment of all graduates just for the sake of appointment is an unsound practice. The appointment of employees to a sector that does not need them obstructs production. Moreover, the salary the appointed graduate collects from the state is not satisfactory and does not secure a dignified life.

He has also said: We find a severe shortage of numerous specializations in Damietta, such as engineers, drivers and other skills. The educational policy must be changed. For example, we have a large number of mechanical engineers whereas we experience a shortage of civil engineers and architects. The branches of education that we need must be expanded. At the same time, the excess labor must be trained with all the means so that it may turn into productive labor. This transformation is very essential.

The governor has further said that putting the right person in the right place is essential and very important.

Al-Gharbiyah Governor

Fikri 'Abd al-Hamid, the governor of al-Gharbiyah, has said to AL-AKHBAR: I believe that it has become very necessary to prepare annual statistics on the various specializations needed by the state sectors to face the expansion in work and projects, the worker movement, transfers, loans and emigration to work abroad. The education policy must be planned in the light of these statistics in order to supply all specializations, to make it possible to implement the development plans and to insure the presence of the right person in the right place. At the same time, graduates of engineering and agricultural colleges should not be permitted to work outside their fields of specialization for any reasons. The issue revolves fundamentally around the technical specializations, meaning that the graduate of agriculture should work in his field, the graduate of mechanical or civil engineering in his field and the graduates of the various technical institutes in their fields. This problem requires the presence of coordination at all levels to arrest the problem first and then to solve it at the level of the governorates and of the state's higher sectors.

As for the graduates of general studies, such as business, arts and law, there is ample opportunity for them to work in the various spheres compatible with their studies, especially after they are trained and after the talents of each of them are discovered. The governor of al-Gharbiyah has stressed that he is personally prepared to solve the problem of any person [not] working in the right place and that the governor's office will receive any complaint from any part of the governorate and will solve it.

STUDENTS NOT PERMITTED ON CAMPUS WITHOUT IDENTITY CARD

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 6 Sep 82 p 7

[Article by Karimah 'Abd al-Razzaq: "Cairo University President: Issuance of Student Identity Cards To Resume on 1 October; No Student Will Be Permitted To Enter University Campus Without Identity Card; Purchase of Copyright From Teaching Staff Members"]

[Text] Cairo University has begun issuing student identity cards for the new academic year, discussing the assignment of new instructors who have graduated this year, continuing the transfer of new students at the end of this week, permitting the transfer of third stage students [college juniors] to the colleges which still have vacancies and purchasing copyrights from the teaching staff members in order to sell books to students at cost price.

Dr Hasan Hamdi, the president of Cairo University, announced this yesterday, saying that no student will be allowed to enter the campus of his university or college without a student identity card and that instructions have been issued to the student affairs departments to extend their work hours in order to continue to issue the cards to regular and correspondence students until 1 October. The president of Cairo University has also said that area transfer between the Cairo University colleges and similar colleges in other universities will continue until the middle of this month in colleges where the transfer of first and second stage students [freshmen and sophomores] is permitted. As for the colleges which still have vacancies for juniors, such as the agriculture, law and arts colleges and the Science Institute, these students will be given the opportunity to transfer within 1 week after announcement of the results of the third stage of coordination on the enrollment in universities.

Dr Hasan Hamdi added that he has asked the deans of the university colleges to determine the needs of the branches of the various colleges for instructors who graduated in May 1982 and to present these needs to the Council of Deans which will convene at the beginning of October before university studies start.

Dr Hamdi has asserted that all the professors will be present as of the middle of this month to examine student transfers and to prepare the lecture dossiers in time for the start of studies. The university's Equipment and Research

Committee will review the needs of the colleges scheduled to receive equipment this year in accordance with the plan approved by the university.

Regarding college textbooks, Dr Hasan Hamdi has said that the decision to purchase copyrights from members of the teaching staff in return for a financial reward is still in effect and that the university will print the books on its own printing presses and will sell them to students at cost. As for faculty members wishing to print their books on the university printing presses, as of now they must submit the original copies of their books so that they may collect them in October and November. These books will be printed at lower costs than on the private printing presses.

The engineering facilities and the Installations Department have begun to repair college buildings and they will complete the new installations before the start of studies on 9 October.

8494

CSO: 4504/529

INCREASED UNIVERSITY BUDGET, BETTER SERVICES SEEN

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 7 Sep 82 pp 1, 14

[Article by Najwa 'Uways: "Budget of Universities Raised to 307 Million Pounds; 25 Million Meals at Cost of 3 Piasters Per Meal; 3.4 Million Pounds To Supply College Textbooks; 7 Million Pounds for Tax-Free Student Clothing"]

[Text] It has been decided to raise the budget of the universities to 307 million pounds and to appoint 1,000 faculty members with PhD degrees and 5,500 instructors and teaching assistants. This was decided during a meeting between Dr Fu'ad Muhyi al-Din, the prime minister, and Dr Mustaga Hilmi, the deputy prime minister for services and the minister of education and scientific research, the university presidents and the governors whose governorates have regional universities.

It was also decided at the meeting that the universities would offer their students 25 million meals at a cost of 3 piasters per meal, with the state shouldering the cost difference, amounting to 9 million pounds. It was further decided that the university towns will accommodate this year 50,000 male and female students, providing that 24,000 places to be set aside for female students, The student will pay 5 pounds monthly.

It was also decided to advance 5.5 million pounds for the construction of new student housing, with the governorates participating in the construction of university communities to house their students. It was also decided to secure social welfare for the students by allocating 3 million pounds from the Social Solidarity Fund, with one-half of the sum to be spent before the start of the academic year and the other half in the second half of the academic year.

Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, the deputy prime minister for services, has stated that it has been decided to continue selling tax-free clothing to college students. These sales amount to 7 million pounds annually. It has also been decided to expand the [system of] educational and social guidance for the students who will be divided into small groups with each group supervised by a faculty member assisted by an instructor, a tutor or a teaching assistant.

It has also been decided to raise the budget of the university hospitals to 20 million pounds to enhance the services of these hospitals. It has been further decided to allocate 3.4 million pounds to supply college textbooks to students.

Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, the deputy prime minister for services, added: It has been decided to raise the budget of the universities from 242 million pounds to 307 million pounds, to raise the salaries and bonuses from 114.7 million pounds to 157.7 million pounds and to raise the allocations for food, laboratory equipment and drugs needed by the hospitals by 55 percent over last year, thus raising these appropriations to 67 million pounds, with an increase of 24 million pounds.

The state has also decided to increase the investment appropriations for new buildings and to give the regional colleges a bigger payment to complete their college installations. The sum of the appropriations in this sector has amounted to 76 million pounds, compared to [figure indistinct] last year. Of this sum, 33 million pounds have been allocated for the regional colleges.

It has also been decided to bolster the student housing plan in order to secure comfortable housing for university students.

Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi added that the state has decided to advance 23 million pounds to enhance the existing university towns and to allocate an additional appropriation of 5.5 million pounds to build new units for the students. The Al-Minufiyah governor has decided to build housing for the governorate students studying at Cairo, Al-Azhar and 'Ayn Shams Universities. The Port Said governor has decided to purchase two buildings in Nasr City, Cairo, to house 1,600 students from Port Said Governorate studying at the universities of Cairo.

Easy-Term Loans for Students

Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi added that the university students Social Solidarity Fund which started with a budget of 0.5 million pounds a few years ago will advance this year 3 million pounds and that it has been decided that 1.5 million pounds of the sum will be spent before the start of the academic year to provide full care for university students. Moreover, Nasir Bank will advance 1.75 million pounds in loans to students. It has been further decided to expand the sale of tax-free imported clothing to students at symbolic prices. Such sales amount to 7 million pounds.

The deputy prime minister for services and the minister of education added:

It has been decided to allocate 588 million pounds for the universities 5-year 1982-86 plan. These are the appropriations for the academic scholarships and the universities have been asked to prepare the detailed studies on this plan. As for college textbooks, a sum of 1.4 million pounds were allocated to subsidize such books and to make them available to the students at reasonable prices. But President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has decided to allocate an additional sum of 2 million pounds for the purpose, thus bringing the total appropriations for college textbooks to 3.4 million pounds. Each university will draw up and implement its plan in this regard.

8494

CSO: 4504/529

DANGER OF GRAFT IN INSURANCE BUSINESS EXPLORED

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in Arabic No 714, 20 Sep 82 pp 16-18

[Article by Umaymah Kamal: "Case Shakes Insurance Market: Attempt to Bribe Insurance Company Employee Fails; Are Guarantees Adequate?"]

[Text] The papers have published a simple report saying: Attempt made by a textile plant owner to bribe an insurance company employee. The employee refused the bribe and the person making the attempt has been arrested.

The papers made no comment but the comments in the world of finance, business and insurance have not stopped because the issue is very serious.

Some may hasten to ask: How serious is this issue? Bribing government officials has become a very ordinary thing in our daily life, even a tradition in our society!

We hasten to answer: The issue is not that simple because the attempt to bribe an insurance company employee means that the possibilities of corruption are entering this sensitive field. The spread of corruption in this field constitutes a threat of bankruptcy to the insurance companies in Egypt. The fact that insurance companies, like banks, are one of the important savings repositories for the citizens points up the seriousness of this case, in the face of which we must pause long before it becomes an ordinary thing and a tradition, even if the attempt did not succeed this time.

How? To answer this we must pause a little before the details of this case, which sounds a warning.

Fire in Textiles Warehouse

The case was this: A fire broke out in the warehouses of a textile factory containing stored textiles valued at 1.7 million pounds. The factory owner had borrowed 1.3 million pounds from the Bank of Egypt and the bank insured the goods for 2 million pounds. A fire broke out in the factory warehouse damaging the textiles in the warehouse and the owner applied to the insurance company for compensation. According to statements made by an employee of the Egyptian Insurance Company involved in the investigation, an examining committee was formed to assess the amount and causes of the loss. It is evident from the report of

the Graft Control Section that the factory owner fabricated the arson and that the true loss was 300,000 pounds and not the 1.3 million pounds that the Bank of Egypt demanded from the company. The report adds that the factory owner prevented the company representatives from making an examination and claimed that all the goods were damaged and the Bank of Egypt refused to accept the remaining goods because they were unfit for use.

Thus, according to the claims employee, when it became evident to the factory owner that we were serious about paying a claim compatible with the amount of the actual loss, he contacted me and asked me and my colleagues to cooperate with him in drafting a report on the incident stating that the actual loss was 1.3 million pounds. In return, he offered to pay us 15,000 pounds in graft in addition to 5 percent of the claim value. I immediately notified the head of the company's claims section, the Public Monies Directorate and the Graft Control Section. The section drew up a plan, under the supervision of Lt Col Ahmad 'Abd al-Sami', an inspector at the section, to take the offered graft. Several meetings were arranged between me and the factory owner and a date was set to deliver a part of the bribe. The incident was recorded and the factory owner was caught paying me 2,000 pounds as an initial sum, with a promise to deliver the 13,000 pounds after the report was written.

In al-Duqqi prosecutor's office, the factory owner denied the incident and said that the company representative demanded 50,000 pounds in return for writing the report, adding that the Egyptian Insurance Company has an interest in rigging the case so that it need not pay the claim.

Partner Confesses

In al-Duqqi prosecutor's office the factory owner's brother, who is also his partner, said that the value of the actual loss amounted to 200,000 pounds but that the Bank of Egypt refused to receive the remaining part of the goods because they were damaged. The factory owner was referred to the criminal court and was then released on a 500-pound bail.

Case of Fraud

The case papers reveal that the factory owner borrowed 1.3 million pounds from the Bank of Egypt and another 1.3 millions from three other banks and that he had been previously charged in a case in Qalyub of colluding with an employee of the Bank of Cairo branch to cash bouncing checks and forged bonds from the bank.

Danger...Alarm Bells

Until a decision is made convicting the factory owner or the insurance company employee, the case constitutes a danger signal that must be examined, considering that this is the first exposed attempt to bribe an insurance company employee in Egypt, even though some people in the prosecutor's office and in the Graft Control Section say that there have been cases that have not been brought to light. This means that there is a danger here that serves as a warning. What are the guarantees established by the insurance companies to prevent manipulation

in the payment of claims and what controls are they subjected to? Is it true that the insurance companies can fabricate such cases to avoid paying the large sums demanded of them in claims?

Ahmad Zaki 'Abd al-Hadi, the head of the Financial and Administrative Affairs Section and member of the Egyptian Insurance Company's Board of Directors, says that graft is basically up to the conscience of each employee and the degree of his loyalty to his company. Even though the insurance companies are government companies, they have their own bylaws, which give their workers high wages and benefits, thus strengthening their loyalty. But despite this, we cannot state categorically that uncaught cases of graft have actually existed. The company establishes a system to guarantee the exercise of control over all its workers. For example, in cases where the insured is entitled to compensation for a certain accident--cases in which the employee is exposed to the temptation of graft--we find that the investigation is not carried out by a single individual but by the head of the claims section and a number of section employees. The assistance of specialized experts from outside the company who are listed in the Insurance Authority register and most of whom are university professors is also employed in cases where big losses are involved. An estimate of the value of the loss and, consequently, of the compensation is made. A determination is also made as to whether the fire is arson. In this respect, we seek the opinion of the police, of the criminal laboratory and of the prosecutor. The report passes through various levels and this guarantees the validity of the report against any manipulation to which an employee might resort. Ahmad Zaki 'Abd al-Hadi added that there is another important point, namely, that the value of the claim is often set, even before investigation, by the value of the policy. The claim cannot exceed the insured value.

Thus, we establish indicators of what the compensation will be. Regarding the company's insuring of the owner of Shubra al-Khaymah Factory, despite his being previously charged in a forgery case, the Board of Directors member said: We do investigate every client applying for insurance with us. But there are cases that slip by us. When the error rate is 1 percent, that means we have succeeded in 99 percent of the cases. But we must not disregard an important point, namely, that when the Bank of Egypt, with its long experience, advances a loan to a client, this in itself constitutes a guarantee to us.

Perplexing Matter

I asked 'Abd al-Hadi: Is the factory owner entitled to collect compensation if the charge of graft, but not of arson, is proven against him?

He said: This is perplexing because this is the first incident of its kind. But in case graft is proven, then this means a violation of one of the provisions of the insurance policy--a violation that causes the insured to lose his right.

Rashad Hilmi, deputy chairman of al-Sharq Insurance Company's Board of Directors' says: There are guarantees established by the company to make graft difficult. In cases of big accidents where the insured demands compensation amounting to thousands of pounds, the company employs the services of a specialist in the type of risks involved. The expert familiarizes himself with the police and

prosecution reports and then determines the amount of the loss and whether the incident is premeditated. The claim is paid or denied on the basis of the expert's evaluation, even though the expert's opinion is purely advisory. The company studies the report prepared by the expert and then determines whether the type of risk involved is included within the guarantees provided by the policy for the insured.

Moreover, a kind of control is exercised through the presence of a disbursement office independent of the technical office. The disbursement office does not pay the claim until they make sure that the insured is entitled to such payment.

I said: But in the case of a bribe exceeding 70,000 pounds in value, such as the case under discussion, doesn't the sum help create some sort of collusion between a number of those taking part in assessing the claim?

He answered: The internal system contains a high degree of control against any collusion. How can we be more strict?

It is reiterated by some people that the insurance companies resort to deception to avoid paying compensation, and this encourages some insured people to resort to illegal methods to obtain their rights.

Mahmud al-Khudari, the company's general director of insurance affairs and member of the Board of Directors, says that the company fully adheres to the payment of compensation. However, there are cases in which the insured violates one of the provisions of the policy stating that absolute truthfulness is the basis of the transaction. But if the accident is beyond the control of the insured, then the claim is paid even for accidents taking place as a result of negligence. The insured has the right to check with the company regarding the value of the compensation it assesses. He can also resort to the judiciary. This gives the insured an adequate guarantee.

We Fine Contravening Company

At the Insurance Control Authority, Ghali Salim, the director of follow-up, has said regarding the authority's role that the authority supervises the founding of national insurance companies and of insurance companies in the free zones according to the needs of the Egyptian market. The authority also supervises the companies' activities and their observation of the payment of compensation in accordance with the terms of the policy. The authority also supervises the specialized examiners recorded in its register. Law No 10 of 1981 gives the authority powers that it did not have before. In accordance with this law, the authority has the power to impose penalties on the companies if they pay a higher or lower compensation than stated in the terms of a policy. In such cases, the authority may levy monetary fines that could affect a company's financial position. The penalty may even reach the extent of finally eliminating a company if it is proven that it procrastinates in meeting its obligations or if it repeatedly and unjustifiably disputes honest demands made on it. The authority's law gives the insured full guarantees and entitles him to resort to an arbitration committee if he rejects the compensation set by the company. The authority compels the company to pay the claim if the insured is in the right.

There Is No Mafia in Insurance Market

As for guarantees to prevent manipulation by workers in the insurance field, the authority's follow-up director says that the system in the insurance companies is in itself a guarantee of control over the workers. This system involves a large number of people in claims assessment, thus making it difficult to tamper with. Is it possible that an entire company will take bribes? There is no Mafia in the insurance market.

I said: Do the insurance companies take into consideration the investigations conducted on the reputation of clients applying for insurance with the companies?

He answered: The insurance companies conduct investigations before insuring clients to determine the risk potential, be it material or personal risk potential. The material risks are embodied in the extent of the availability of fire-extinguishing means, the presence of sources of water and the types of machinery used. The personal risk pertains to the client himself. The insurance company investigates whether the applicant has a criminal record and whether he has applied to another company and the reasons for this company's refusal to insure him. but we must differentiate between the client's reputation as a businessman--a reputation that affects his dealings with banks and not with the insurance sector. It is possible that the client may have been charged in numerous cases. However, this does not negate the fact that he is a successful factory owner. What is of concern to us is that he not be a bad insurance risk, meaning that he is not a client who pays 100 pounds in insurance and costs the company thousands.

Bribe Takers Are More Careful

At the Graft Control Section of the Public Monies Directorate, I said to Col Sa'id al-Sawi, the section chief: The exposure of the crime of bribing an insurance company employee is a precedent. Does this mean that the crime was not committed in the dark and that this crime is the only one brought to light in the insurance sector?

He answered: Graft is not an easy crime to uncover in view of the agreement in interest between the grafter and the grafter. This applies on a larger scale to the insurance sector where the value of the graft reaches enormous sums, thus requiring a great degree of caution on the part of both sides. But it is my opinion that this crime is not the first of its kind in the insurance sector. There have been other graft cases that have not been discovered.

I said: Most of the cases discovered have been exposed through [informers'] reports and not through constant follow-up. What is your system?

He said that the directorate has representatives in most of the sectors where the work requires dealing with the public because these are the sectors most strongly exposed to graft. Through the investigations of our representatives, we can catch cases of graft. If we encounter difficulties in this respect, we notify the authorities concerned to transfer those under suspicion to other locations that have no dealings with the public so that the suspected employee cannot exploit his authority.

Impact of Abolition of Administrative Control

I said: Has abolition of administrative control affected the Graft Control Section's work, especially since the number of cases uncovered dropped from 124 in 1980 to 103 in 1981?

He said: Perhaps the abolition of administrative control is a reason for the drop in the number of cases we have caught because we used to exchange information and investigations [with the administrative control]. Moreover, the presence of the control certainly reduces the possibility of the occurrence of graft. But this is not the only reason. There are other motives for both of the parties to graft to be more cautious and secretive. This is in addition to the fact that many people refrain from cooperating with us out of fear of officials or for lack of adequate awareness.

8494

CSO: 4504/15

IRAN

IRANIAN PRESIDENT MEETS STUDENTS DEPORTED FROM FRG

GF221732 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 22 Oct 82

[Text] Tehran, 22 Oct (IRNA)--"The prestige of a superpower like the U.S. was shattered by the determination of the people when it (U.S.) confronted the great Islamic revolution of Iran and what she (the U.S.) wanted was not achieved (while) what the (Iranian) people wanted was achieved....," said President Khamene'i Thursday.

Addressing a group of visiting Iranian Muslim students recently deported from West Germany along with Majlis Deputy Hojjat Ol-eslam Fazel-harandi said that the resistance of the Iranian students had made the enemies of the Islamic revolution aware of the active and resistant nature of the Islamic republic and its people.

Relations between the Islamic republic and West Germany have steadily declined this year because of brutal treatment against Iranian Muslim students by the West German police. Dozens of Iranian students have been deported from that country after being subjected to torture and humiliation. They were arrested for resisting attacks by counterrevolutionary Iranians there.

The Islamic republic reacted firmly by taking over West Germany's Cultural Centre, the Goethe Institute, last September and closing down its archeology centre earlier this week.

The president told the students that although they had been subjected to torture, intimidation and pressure, nevertheless they were the ones who came out victorious.

CSO: 4600/65

MUSAVI: U. S. MUST KNOW ERA OF FORCE ENDED

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

TEHRAN. (IRNA) --Prime Minister Musavi said yesterday that the government supports Speaker Rafsanjani's offer to give financial support to the International Atomic Energy Agency following threats by the U.S. that it would withdraw its support from the IAEA if the latter went ahead with its suspension of the membership of the Zionist regime.

Speaking after Yesterday's Cabinet meeting, Musavi told IRNA that the financial support of the U.S. to the IAEA was not very significant and the Islamic Republic by itself could finance this support.

"The U.S. should know that the time when it can rule in the world with money and force, has come to an end," he said.

Speaker Rafsanjani made the offer two days ago during a meeting with a delegation from the People's Democratic Republic of Korea and his remarks were backed by a letter signed by a number of Majlis representatives Tuesday.

The Islamic Republic also its financial share in five times in the International Telecommunications Union in order to compensate for the U.S.

contribution which it has threatened to suspend if the Zionist regime is expelled from this organization.

Concerning the progress made during the three day visit of a delegation from the Democratic people's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the prime minister said that the meetings held between the two countries included talks concerning Iran's policy of "Neither East nor West" and its opposition to the presence of the U.S. in the region and the interference of the superpowers in the affairs of the deprived nations of the world.

Musavi said that in economic talks with the DPRK officials, the two countries agreed to expand their relations and it was decided that the DPRK would send an economic delegation to the Islamic Republic within the next two weeks in order to continue the talks.

Also, on the current visit of the Turkish Foreign Minister Iler Turkmen, he said that the position of the Islamic Republic concerning the Iraqi imposed war was explained and "We said that our forces are to inflict crushing blows on Saddam's regime until our complete rights are realised."

Other issues discussed, Musavi said, were the situation

in the region and the view points of the Islamic Republic on peace and security in the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean, while expressing that this should be kept free of the influence of the Superpowers.

IRAN

AYATOLLAH MONTAZERI RECEIVES ARMY COMMANDER

LD231204 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Oct 82

[Text] According to a central news unit report, Col Sayyad Shirazi, commander of the ground forces of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, met with his eminence Ayatollah Montazeri to whom he gave a report on the situation on the battlefronts. During this meeting his eminence Ayatollah Montazeri expressed appreciation for the activities of the responsible officials in charge of the war. He said he is praying for the valiant combatants of Islam. He said: Praise be to God almighty, the situation on the warfronts is now much better from every standpoint than during the first days of the imposed war, and the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thist regime, despite the fact that the world of blasphemy has done and is doing its utmost to support the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thist regime, the regime is daily becoming weaker than in the past.

His eminence Ayatollah Montazeri also expressed the hope that by following the example of the archmartyr, the Hole Aba 'Abdullah al-Husayn, may peace be upon him, and his selfless companions and by taking inspiration from their path and traditions the army of Islam would soon punish the aggressor and blasphemer Saddam and would cut off his aggressive hand.

CSO: 4600/65

EXECUTED REBEL LEADER ADMITS U.S.-CIA SUPPORT

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Oct 82 p 2

[Text]

TEHRAN, (IRNA) - Khosrow Qashqaie, executed on Oct 1st, was shown Friday in a television program taped some time after his arrest last June in which he admitted to foreign support, especially from the U.S. for his counterrevolutionary armed men in Fars Province.

"The Americans provided 150 million rials every month through a representative we had in Shiraz to pay for the expenses of our conspiracies against the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Qashqaie also said that just before the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Feb. 1979 he came to Iran after living off a 90,000 rials salary from the shah's notorious secret police, SAVAK, and from a hotel in Tehran he had given information concerning the events of the revolution to CIA through telephone contacts.

"According to plans which had been prepared and coordinated with the U.S., and (former president) Banisadr and in 1359 (1980-81) I went to the south (of Iran) with the financial help of the U.S. and the cooperation of Shahpur Bakhtiar (last prime minister of the ex-shah), my brother Naser Qashqaie and his

son Abdullah to gather personnel and facilities in order to carry out an American (backed) coup there. (But) against what we had imagined ... after a while we faced great opposition by the people."

Qashqaie, who spoke in strange manner using such words as "My conspiracies" and "I was a direct pawn of the U.S." showed his total weakness in defence of his past treacherous activities.

In the court proceedings, Qashqaie had also refused to answer the questions put forth and "spoke nonsense," the court said.

The notorious U.S. agent further said "I was the direct pawn of the CIA of the U.S. and the executive shoulder of U.S. imperialism in Iran."

Concerning his armed camps in Fars Province, he said that they had been set up at the "encouragement of the U.S., Bakhtiar and Madani," and were aimed at attracting more forces in order to create dissatisfaction and pessimism among the people, "implementing the conspiracies of the U.S."

Qashqaie said that his mercenary forces were trying to make a "second Kurdistan" in Fars Province and to create general disorder there.

He said these measures had been recommended by messages sent to him by Banisadr, Madani, Bakhtiar, Nazih and Abdulrahman Borumand (one of Bakhtiar' classmates).

Before he was arrested last June, he had contacted Banisadr once in Paris during which he had been encouraged to go to the U.S., " by the name of Johan Waller, who made arrangements for Qashqaie to meet " the head of the Iran office in the U.S. State department and, following a series of deliberations, general agreement was made that we have contacts with him."

Other counterrevolutionaries who had contact with Qashqaie, were a member of the Munafeqeen (MKO) who had participated in the assassination attempt led to the martyrdom of Shiraz's Friday prayers leader Ayatollah Dastgheib late last year, and also a member of a Maoist group known as the Ranjbar.

" The U.S. can't do a damn thing " Qashqaie said, ending his confessions with a statement made by Imam Khomeini some three years ago when U.S. congressmen in a letter condemned the execution of the shah's generals, torturers and murderers by the Islamic Rev. courts.

CSO: 4600/68

DPRK PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO SPEAKER

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 20 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

TEHRAN - "The Iranian people, since the victory of your Revolution, have overcome various problems and have started a new life," North Korean leader President Kim Il Sung in a message which he sent to the Speaker of Majlis Hojjatoleslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, IRNA reported.

in the Non-Aligned Movement, President Sung remarked that a mutual cooperation between the two nations would have great effects in "thwarting the plots of the foreign enemies of Iran and North Korea."

The message which was submitted to Rafsanjani by the Chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Hwang Jang Yop during a meeting yesterday also read that consequent to the Iranian Majlis Speaker's visit to North Korea, the mutual relations between the two countries had developed to an excellent extent."

The North Korean leader in his message stressed that the peoples of Iran and his country shared similar views as to their struggle against a common enemy, U.S. Imperialism.

Speaking about the similarities of the Islamic Republic and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea such as the Asian nature of the two countries and their membership

DPRK MISSION LEAVES WITH PROMISES OF BROADER TIES

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 20 Oct 82 p 1

[Text] TEHRAN (IRNA) — The mission of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, headed by that country's Parliament Speaker Hwang Jang Yop left Tehran yesterday morning for Pyong Yang after a three-day stay.

The mission was seen off at the airport by Majlis Speaker Hojjatolislam Hashemi Rafsanjani, and a number of other Foreign Ministry officials.

Prior to this departure, Jang Yop said that despite the great geographical distance between the two countries, his people attach great importance to the Islamic Revolution of Iran and Imam Khomeini. He added that U.S. imperialism hatched many plots to crush the Islamic Revolution of Iran which were thwarted by Iranians, maintaining absolute independence.

He said this trip showed him that the Iranian nation is progressing with great perseverance, and that the two countries have common viewpoints for the expansion of bilateral relations.

In conclusion, he thanked the Iranian nation for their hospitality.

The Majlis Speaker Hash-

emi Rafsanjani said the DPRK mission's trip to Iran was in response to his visit to that country last year.

He said the Non-Aligned countries' vital responsibilities towards word oppression and bilateral relations were discussed during the visit of the DPRK delegation.

He concluded by saying that the mission's trip to Iran was a step ahead for the development of bilateral relations, and that it will also pave the way for more cooperation among the independent countries in international organizations which are of great importance.

The high-ranking DPRK delegation earlier held its final round of talks last evening with the Iranian Majlis Speaker.

In this meeting, the chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK said, "We closely witnessed the commitment of the Iranian nation to the Islamic Revolution and their devotion to reconstruction of their country."

He said he was deeply touched by the anti-imperialist position of the Iranian people and government.

He then called for close cooperation between the Non-Aligned and developing countries and urged the convening of

the South-South conference in order to discuss solutions for the economic problems of these countries.

Insisting on the change of venue for the meeting of the next session of the Interparliamentary Union to be held in Seoul, South Korea, Hwang Jang Yop asked the Islamic Republic to assist the DPRK in that respect. Hwang Jang Yop also called for further parliamentary relations between Iran and the DPRK, and said that exchange of parliamentary delegations would play a positive role in expanding bilateral ties.

The Iranian Majlis speaker, while reaffirming the political-social growth of the Iranian nation after the culmination of the revolution, in response said the anti-U.S. imperialism slogans of this nation are based on their social and cultural knowledge.

He then called for further cooperation between independent and revolutionary countries in diplomatic, economic and military fields. "We should confront the expansionism of the superpowers through close cooperation," he said.

Hwang Yang Jop also met and conferred with Prime Minister Mirhussein Musavi here yesterday.

In this meeting, also attended by a number of Korean and Iranian diplomatic and economic officials, talks were held on economic and political cooperation between the two countries in confronting imperialistic plots.

CSO: 4600/63

IRAN

SWEDEN-IRANIAN DEFECTOR GIVES PRESS CONFERENCE 26 OCTOBER

NC261833 Paris AFP in English 1605 GMT 26 Oct 82

[Text] Stockholm, 26 Oct (AFP)--A former Iranian diplomat in Senegal told a press conference here today that he had asked Sweden for political asylum because of its record of support for human rights.

Mossen Eskander, aged 35, who already spent 12 years in exile in France and the United States during the rule of the late shah, said the present regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni was worse than that of the shah.

Mr Eskander said confidential documents that he took from the Iranian Embassy in Dakar contained information about bomb attacks in Western Europe and in particular Paris over the past few years.

The former diplomat, who refused to reveal the papers' contents, said that Ayatollah Khomeyni hoped through both these terrorist attacks and continuing the war with Iraq to draw attention away from internal problems and remain in power.

Mr Eskander said the documents would be handed over to the Iranian National Resistance Council run from Paris by left-wing Mojahedin-e Khalq Movement leader Mas'ud Rajavi and former Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-sadr.

Mr Eskander said he would join this anti-Khomeyni resistance grouping.

Mr Eskander said he decided to leave his embassy job and seek asylum after a recent one month visit to Iran during which time he realised the cruelty and fanaticism of the present Tehran regime.

CSO: 4600/65

IRAN

'IRNA' REPORTS VELAYATI'S REJECTION OF IRAQI OFFER

LD272128 Tehran IRNA in English 1935 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Text] Tehran, 27 Oct (IRNA)--'Ali Akbar Velayati yesterday rejected Iraq's so-called offer to settle differences between the two countries, based upon the 1975 treaty signed in Algeria.

The foreign minister said that Iraq was speaking about peace at a time when it had bombed the residential areas in Dezful and Ilam Tuesday martyrings tens of innocent people.

He said that after nullifying the treaty in the beginning of its aggression two years ago, [words indistinct] Iraq's Saddam Husayn had now disgracefully changed his decision after being driven back by the Islamic forces despite the multilateral support of the arrogant powers of the world.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran believes itself to be committed to the blood of thousands of martyrs who had until now acted as a barrier against the aggressions of the aggressor (Iraq) Ba'thists and it (?announces) that in order to realise the goals of the martyrs it would continue its defensive operations until the last inch of our Islamic land now occupied by the Iraqi aggressors is liberated and until our justified rights have been met," he told IRNA.

CSO: 4600/65

IRAN

IRAN CLANDESTINE REVIEWS TERRORISTS' CASE

GF251940 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 25 Oct 82

[Text] According to a dispatch by our correspondent, two individuals named Mohammad Saleh Ahmad and Ghafur Darbandi have been sentenced to death in the unjust courts of the army of the Islamic Republic regime. The regime has claimed that the two intended to plant 70 kg explosives hidden in a car in Sepah Square and then explode it and also said that officials were able to neutralize this bomb before the explosion.

Our correspondent states: Raising accusations against the regime's opposition in Iran has become a natural state of affairs and getting contrived and fascist-style confessions under mental and physical torture from the accused is among the activities of the Islamic Republic regime in order to suppress and execute the opposition.

In addition, the aim of the regime, in trying these two on charges of being in contact with the Democratic Party [KDP] and planting bombs in public places, is only an attempt to divert the public opinion from the role of the ruling regime in the recent explosion in Tehran's Naser Khosrow Avenue. The attempt is being made to blame the opposition for this explosion. There is a great possibility that these two will be sentenced to death by the army's unjust court.

CSO: 4600/65

IRAN

IRAN CLANDESTINE ON TRIAL OF TWO ACCUSED BOMBERS

GF251206 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Oct 82

[Text] According to our correspondent the trial of two innocent people accused of planting bombs in Tehran has started. The trial of the two began on Sunday morning in the unjust army court of the regime.

By trying these two the regime of mullahs is attempting to portray itself as completely in charge and all powerful. We remind you that after the criminal explosion in Naser Khosrow Avenue Mullah Nateq-nuri, the interior minister of the mullahs, in a radio interview immediately after the explosion claimed that a number of suspicious individuals were arrested in connection with the explosion. Our correspondent adds: The regime claims to be in possession of documents gained through the confessions of members of Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization which prove the role of the said organization in the recent explosions in Tehran. The organization has denied any role in these explosions.

KEYHAN, the government evening daily published in Tehran, in its last issue reported the news about the trial of two youths accused of this bombing in Tehran, stating that the trial of the two started in the army revolution court.

Our correspondent goes on to say: There is no doubt that the two accused should be considered guilty from the start since they will be executed by the regime.

CSO: 4600/65

BUDGET FOR WAR, RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR-STRICKEN AREAS DECIDED

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 14 Oct 82 pp 1, 4

[Text] TEHRAN, (IRNA)--The Cabinet and the Economic Council held a joint meeting Tuesday evening chaired by Prime Minister MirHussein Musavi. During this meeting a supplement to the current budget was proposed by the Plan and Budget Organization and was approved with some changes:

Some 155 billion rials were allocated to the special credit account set up to finance the Iraqi imposed war and the reconstruction of war stricken regions.

Considering the fast rate of progress in the development projects, some 210 billion rials were allocated to increase previous credits.

To satisfy the current expenditures of government offices some 103 billion rials were allocated.

Some 25 billion rials were allocated in order to increase credit given for the construction of 800 megawatt power plants in Isfahan, Bandar Abbas, Ramin, Zarban, and Tabriz for the construction of powerlines in the southern part of the country's electricity network and for other production plans and energy distribution projects.

In order to construct village roads and also to complete roads currently under construction, and the completion of three ports in Chahbahar, some 20 billion rials were allocated.

Some 1.5 billion rials were allocated to complete projects in the Moghan Agro-industry Company and to reopen a sugar-cube factory.

To complete water and distribution projects for agricultural activities, some 3.3 billion rials were allocated.

To complete the construction of government offices, some 26 billion rials were allocated.

To complete educational plans for universities and for the education ministry, some 3.4 billion rials were allocated.

To complete health projects in the country, some 2.1 billion rials were allocated.

To complete communications projects in the country some 8.9 billion rials were allocated.

Some 15 billion rials were allocated to complete plans being carried out by the reconstruction jihad.

To complete plans for the sugar-cube factory in Dezful, the Baft-e Baluch Textile Factory in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, the tractor factory in Tabriz, and the

Province, the tractor factory in Tabriz, and the Defence Industry, some 5.8 billion rials were allocated for the Industrial Expansion and Renovation Organization.

To complete oil exploration, and refining projects, some 15.9 billion rials were allocated.

To complete plans for refining and distribution of natural Gas, some 10 billion rials were allocated.

Some 5 billion rials were allocated to the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee to enable it to increase activities.

Some 10 billion rials were allocated for the planning committees of the provinces.

Some 3 billion rials were allocated to create jobs in the agricultural field.

CSO: 4600/66

IRAN

IRANIAN DAILY COMMENTS ISLAMIC EFFORT TO END WAR

GF231204 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Oct 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Dear Brothers: On its page devoted to world news, SOBH-E AZADEGAN published the news of the renewal of the peace endeavor delegation to end the hostile Saddamist war. The paper said: After Iran's recent victories in the battlefronts and the deteriorating situation inside Iraq, the peace endeavor delegation has begun new [words indistinct] Iraqi regime from downfall. News reports received here say that the committee which was elected at the Islamic Countries Organization will carry out new efforts to study the situation of the war imposed on Iran. Moreover, Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of PLO, met with the Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure in Jidda and discussed the hostile Saddamist war. It should be noted that Ahmed Sekou Toure had visited Egypt and held talks with Husni Mubarak, president of the regime, and that they issued a joint communique in which they called for the end of the hostile Saddamist war. They also held discussions with Habib Chatti in this regard.

All these negotiations and meetings are being carried out among chairman of delegations and the peace endeavor committee. The meeting of Sudanese vice president in Baghdad is within the framework of the effort to find a way to stop Saddam and his regime's downfall after experiencing mammoth defeats in battle fronts with Iran in the war it has imposed on Iran.

CSO: 4600/65

IRAN

IRAN CLANDESTINE REPORTS DEFECTION OF PILOT

GF231953 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 23 Oct 82

[Text] According to our correspondent, another pilot of the Iran National Airlines, HOMA, named Fereydun Arian, who had taken a number of the regime's mullahs to Amsterdam in a Boeing 707, has asked Swiss officials for political asylum. He has invited the representatives of the international press to attend his press conference to be held in Geneva on Monday, 25 October. He also gave his telephone number in Geneva, 41-38252876, to the press so that if they wish to receive documents about the criminal actions of Khomeyni's regime, headed by Ruhollah Khomeyni, they can contact him.

The offices of Mojahedin-e Khālq of Iran [MKO] in Paris have published the text of the letter by Arian sent to this office today for use by the international media. The letter states: I, Fereydun Arian, am a pilot for HOMA and one of the founders of the Society of the Iranian Pilots and Flight Engineers. I have 17 years of experience in flying and hereby announce that the regime of Khomeyni, having executed 20,000 and imprisoned 50,000, as well as wasting over \$500 billion of the wealth of the country and causing the deaths of about 200,000 people in the war with Iraq--irrespective of all the opportunities to attain a just peace--is an antihuman regime which has no popular justification to remain in power. Now that my continued presence in Iran has become impossible due to the daily increase of pressure by the regime against the intellectuals and freedomseekers, and considering my past ties with the MKO, I announce my support for this organization and ask all the free people of Iran, and especially my colleagues, to show their positions by revealing the actions of the regime ruling Iran.

CSO: 4600/65

IRAN

IRAN CLANDESTINE REPORTS ON KORDESTAN FIGHTING

GF221340 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT
21 Oct 82

[Text] The commander of Hamzeh Headquarters in Kordestan, in an interview with unlawful radio of the Khomeyni regime, said that the headquarters of so-called counterrevolutionaries was heavily attacked by the revolution guards, armed forces and mobilized units. He admitted that in the past few days heavy clashes have occurred in the vicinity of Sanandaj, Sardasht, Piranshahr, Naqadeh, Miandoab and Saqqez. The commander of Hamzeh Headquarters added that heavy fighting is still continuing in Kordestan region.

In addition to the statement of the commander of Hamzeh Headquarters, our correspondent from Kordestan has reported that the Kurdish warriors have its bases under their control and have killed thousands of guards and Khomeyni mercenaries. [Words indistinct] have used helicopter-gunships, heavy artillery and napalm shells and have killed thousands of children, women and civilian Kurdish men. The report adds that most of the villages have been destroyed.

[Passage indistinct] have inflicted heavy casualties on Khomeyni's guards. Sometime back 'Ezudin Hoseyni declared in Paris that in the recent fighting in Kordestan, more than 2,500 guards have been killed and their attacks on the Kurdish settlements have been repulsed. 'Ezudin Hoseyni is expected to return to Kordestan tomorrow.

CSO: 4600/65

SAUDI DAILY INTERVIEWS IRANIAN LIBERATION ARMY LEADER

GF251754 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 21 Oct 82 p 11

[Interview with General Mo'Inzadeh, the leader of the Army for the Liberation of Iran, to AL-MADINAH correspondent Sa'd Mabruk in Paris--date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-MADINAH: Can you tell us about the circumstances behind the foundation of our organization?

Zadeh: At the beginning, I would like to say that this organization is both political and military. The Army for the Liberation of Iran was formed by a large group of officers who fled the country after Khomeyni seized power in order to save the country and the nation. Since the beginning, we realized and felt that Khomeyni came to Iran with false Islamic ideas that only serve his personal interests and that have no relationship with Islam, which we know and in which we believe. These officers also realized that if they did not do something and if they did not organize themselves into a military grouping, Iran would move toward communism and would fall into communist hands. After several contacts and attempts the Iranian officers in Europe and the United States formed this clandestine army to save the country.

AL-MADINAH: When did you announce your military organization:

Zadeh: We announced our formation 4 months after Khomeyni came to power. A month later we began to publish our newspaper ARA, which is a semimonthly newspaper. We publish 20,000 copies of this newspaper. Half of this number is secretly distributed inside Iran. Anyone who reads this newspaper will be executed by Khomeyni. [passage omitted]

AL-MADINAH: What is the approximate size of the Army for the Liberation of Iran?

Zadeh: This is annoying because I cannot reveal the number of soldiers in the army under my command. In Europe and the United States alone there are about 7,500 officers, over 3,000 of whom are members of the Iranian Liberation Army. I cannot say anything more than that.

AL-MADINAH: What are the objectives of ARA?

Zadeh: Our objectives and program are represented by the following 7 points:

1. Armed struggle in order to liberate the country and save it from Khomeyni's regime, which we consider illegal and radical.
2. Reestablishment of the royal regime under a constitution in a manner similar to the case currently in Britain and Belgium. This means that parliament is the organ which rules the country.
3. Restoration of our domination and dignity of Islam and saving it and ousting the false radicalists who are distorting the word of Islam.
4. Struggle for acquiring all political and ideological liberties.
5. Defense of the rights of religious and ethnic minorities within the framework of the unity of the Iranian people.
6. Struggle for defending our culture and history against this strange and illegal regime.
7. Intimate cooperation with all national opposition parties in Iran and outside Iran. [passage omitted]

CSO: 4600/65

PERSIAN GULF OIL PRODUCERS MAY QUIT 13-MEMBER CARTEL

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Oct 82 p 2

[Text] MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — The Minister of Industry of the State of Bahrain hinted yesterday that Arab oil producers in the Persian Gulf area may withdraw from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC.)

"Thursday's warning is significant," the Bahrain-based (Persian) Gulf News Agency quoted Youssef al-Shirawi as saying in reference to a strongly worded statement issued by the (Persian) Gulf Arab producers.

"The (Persian) Gulf countries are pushed into drafting a unified policy on petroleum," he added, "especially since these countries have taken a bout of injustice and sacrificed their production in the past to maintain the unity of prices in OPEC."

Al-Shirawi made the statement after returning from the town of Salalah, in the Sultan-

ate of Oman, where he represented Bahrain at a meeting by the oil ministers of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC.)

The meeting, which culminated in the unprecedented warning to other OPEC member states, brought together the oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

Officials at OPEC's headquarters in Vienna declined comment on reports that the cartel's oil producers are drafting their own pricing and production policies.

"We do not comment on that sort of thing," said an official at OPEC's Secretariat here.

"That type of data will be reported to and analyzed by our Market Monitoring Committee," he added, asking not to be named.

However, after the meeting ended, the oil ministers of

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar issued a strongly worded statement indicating the 22-year-old cartel has been unable to mend the serious strains that have affected it since the world crude oil glut developed.

The Secretariat "is very aware of some of the problems," the OPEC official said. "They have been voiced and hinted at by many people, including some (oil) ministers."

Six months ago the Organization of Petroleum Producing Countries set its first-ever production ceiling at 17.5 million barrels a day and agreed to individual quotas. The cartel also set a \$34 per barrel base price for its oil.

Since then fierce competition for buyers in the soft worldwide oil markets has prompted some price-cutting among members.

COUNTRY'S SHARE TO ITU INCREASED TO DETER U.S. DOMINATION

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 20 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

NAIROBI (IRNA) — The Islamic Republic of Iran increased its financial share five times in the U.N. — International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to compensate for the U.S. contribution which that country has threatened to suspend if the Zionist regime is expelled from the international organization.

Iranian delegate Seyyed Mostafa Safavi, addressing the ITU Conference, said it is expected that other member countries will also take necessary measures to compensate for the U.S. share and maintain the integrity of human values.

The United States three weeks ago withdrew from the International Atomic Energy Agency following the conference's vote to deny Zionist regime's credentials.

Iranian Majlis deputies announced in a letter early this week that Iran was ready to pay the sum equal to what is paid by the United States as its share to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The Iranian representative to the ITU Conference outlined the crimes of the Zionist

regime and condemned the U.S. for its complicity in the crimes committed by them in Lebanon.

The Iranian delegate said that resolution 120, which called for the expulsion of the Zionist regime, was justified.

In reply to the U.S. threat, the Iranian delegate said that the Islamic Republic and all other countries who believe in peace and attack importance to the right stand will strongly oppose any move which will impose U.S. domination world opinion.

He said "We will not allow the rich to determine the fate of others."

BRIEFS

SOVIET DIPLOMAT SEEKS UK ASYLUM--According to a report by our correspondent, (7Krezizenskiy), a soviet diplomat working in the USSR Embassy in Tehran, who disappeared in Iran last June--his car was found some time later on a Tehran avenue--asked for political asylum in London yesterday. Iranian circles in London have announced that he will participate in a press conference soon and will reveal many secret deals between Tehran and the Kremlin. [Text] [GF231905 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 23 Oct 82]

IRAQI SOLDIERS KILLED--Sanandaj, 25 Oct (IRNA)--Some Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded Saturday when the Iraqi garrisons of Seyyid Saieq and Qadamferi [spelling as received] came under the artillery fire of the Islamic forces in the northwest fronts of Mariva, in Kordestan Province. In this operation, some buildings and munitions depots of the said garrisons were destroyed. Also, eight Iraqi Ba'thists were killed and 10 others wounded as the Iranian artillery fire smashed the tele-communications centre of the Ashabollah [spelling as received] region of Iraq last Wednesday. In another development Saturday, four Iraqis were killed as the Iraqi Muslim Mojahedin ambushed a military vehicle of the Iraqi forces on the As-Sulaymaniyah axis. [Text] [LD252216 Tehran IRNA in English 2004 GMT 25 Oct 82]

EARTH TREMOR REPORTED--Senman, 26 Oct (IRNA)--A tremor with an intensify of 4.5 degrees on the Richter Scale shook Garmsar and the villages in its vicinity in Senman Province, east of Tehran, at 20:25 hours Monday night. The Governor of Garmsar Mohammad Javad Zamanian told IRNA that several old buildings were collapsed with minor damages inflicted here and there as a result of the tremor. Some people had minor injuries who were treated in the local hospitals as an outpatient. [Text] [LD261018 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 26 Oct 82]

CSO: 4600/65

SOUTHERN REGION'S DEVELOPMENT ACHIEVEMENTS, PLANS

Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 7 Sep 82 p 4

[Article by 'Abd al-Battat, press office of People's House, Southern Region: "216 Million Dinars to Implement Service Projects; the Success of the Experiment of Direct Implementation has been Assured"]

[Text] Everything happens with vigor in Iraq. On the domestic front buildings rise, the wheels of the factories turn without end, the projects of developmental planning proceed in swift fashion, where millions of dinars are spent on them. And housing and construction projects take first place among the great projects.

Here we report one of the figures for the sums designated for these projects which have been completed or are in the process of being completed. The figure is 216 million dinars. These millions have been designated for projects in the southern region alone. In order to get to know the details, we met with Mr Jalal Muhammad Mahdi, general director of the Public Building Establishment for the Southern Region. He began his conversation with us on the projects and their size by saying, "Before going into detail on the subject, I would like to indicate that we work according to two methods in implementing our projects. The first method is direct implementation, i.e. by means of our proprietors. We have been able to implement 130 projects according to this course of action in which our proprietors have achieved distinguished successes and have been able to avoid all problems. The second method is by means of contractors. By this means we have also achieved excellent success, because the contractors work according to specifications stipulated in the contracts concluded with them.

"How shall we start . . . Basra, Maysan, or where? Let's start with Basra. The Basra projects for which our organization is responsible are many. At present we are building housing to accommodate 240 industrial preparatory students, a house for the male and female teachers, a preparatory business school, and special schools in all parts of the Gulf, Qibla, Qurna, and Faw, a center for school activities, a building for the faculty of education's department of human studies, and housing for male and female students able to accommodate 2016 students.

"We are also putting up the buildings for the engineering faculty and a lecture hall, and laying down pipes for central air conditioning. In the health projects field there is, for example, a pediatric and obstetric hospital with a 260-bed capacity, along with housing for the physicians and a clinic for medical examinations.

"On the other hand, our projects have never stopped at that point. We have also built housing complexes, a building for the court of appeals, a summer pool, a bureau for statistics and the real estate bank, and other projects which have cost more than 72 million dinars."

"And how are things in Maysan province?"

"Similar to most provinces in our region whose projects meet with continuous support from the leadership of the party and the revolution. We are now in the process of building a pediatric and obstetric hospital, a general hospital with a 400-bed capacity along with housing for the resident doctors, twelve living apartments, 48 living units, a center for production training and another for educational methods, as well as an athletic field built according to international specifications. The cost of these projects is 33 million dinars."

Now, let's turn to Dhi Qar or Wasit.

Mr Jalal Muhammad Mahdi said, "I will talk about the projects of both provinces together. But first I have an observation to make. The projects which I have talked about or will talk about are only those that our organization is implementing. I said that at the beginning. I am saying this because there are other very big projects which are part of a strategy that other government agencies are implementing.

"Let us go back to Dhi Qar and Wasit. The cost of these projects is 52 million dinars. These include the construction of public health laboratories, pediatric and obstetric hospitals, buildings for housing, athletic fields, large store-houses, technical institutes, houses for male and female teachers, boarding rooms. . .

"You will ask me about the minute details of these projects, won't you? Certainly. I would have liked to give them to you. But you will find what you need at the agencies that are undertaking the construction. We build, and other agencies take over the building and put it into operation.

"So let's go to another province. O.K., we'll go to Muthanna province. The projects of this youthful province which are being implemented include a large hospital with a 400-bed capacity, to be located in the province center, in the city of Samawa. And in that same city a pediatric and obstetric hospital will be built with a 260-bed capacity. In addition, there is a building suitable for the general education administration with two housing sections; the first is for the female teachers, and the second is for the male teachers; and there is a building for the real-estate bank."

"Do you remember the Salman depression?"

"And who doesn't remember it? The Salman depression was appropriated by the action of the humane revolution, so that the place turned into a district, the Salman district. Very great sums have been earmarked for this district to implement a number of projects, the latest of which is housing to accommodate 300 students. The cost of these projects that I have mentioned is 30 million dinars."

"I think we have forgotten Qadisiyah?"

"And how could we forget it! In the Qadisiyah province we are carrying our projects at a cost of 28 million dinars. These include the construction of 13 houses for members of the state administration, construction of the National Iraqi Students Union headquarters, a business preparatory school, and a house for the male and female teachers, in addition to housing for male and female students with a center for school activities. And work has started on construction of a large hospital and another building for a pediatric and obstetric hospital.

9397

CSO: 4404/1

TRADE IN CONSUMER GOODS, DEVELOPMENT REVIEWED

Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 8 Sep 82 p 7

[Article by Muhyi 'Alwan Muhammad and Sami Hasan 'Alwan: "Stability of the Iraqi Market: The Role of the Socialist Trade Sector in Supplying Consumer Goods and Staples for Citizens and Helping in the Process of Developmental Construction in the Region"]

[Text] Importation appropriations for the commercial sector rose 150 percent during the 2 years of our just battle. This rising increase came as a result of the continued implementation of the development plans and programs which were among the motivating causes of the aggression against our region by the Iranian regime, which aimed to bring them to a halt.

The importation and marketing activities of the commercial sector helped to create a unique situation not witnessed by any other country exposed to aggression, in that the Iraqi market has been characterized by stability.

The commercial sector worked at that time to employ the forms of cooperation and the evolving planned economy with the production sectors in order to market national industrial products in accordance with contracts between the producing, marketing and commercial establishments, alongside the marketing of principal agricultural crops such as wheat, barley, rice, and dates. The sector participated in this in a serious way to market the local produce and increase the potential of using our self-producing capacities to ensure that the needs of the citizens would be met in the circumstances of war. In 1980 the increase reached almost four times what it was in 1976, and the purchases of local goods by organizations belonging to the General Establishment for the Trade of Commercial Goods in 1980 reached 41 percent of their total purchases at a time when the total sales of nationally produced goods for these organizations for 1981 compared with 1976 recorded an increase of 365 percent. This increase contributed toward developing the implementation of the new contracts concluded for this year.

The successes achieved by the socialist commercial sector in raising the total sales of all its establishments in the area of domestic trade were such that sales went up 75 percent during the 3 years of 1979-81, and the increase during the two years of the war was 43 percent; compared with only 1978 these sales in 1980 had increased almost 40 times.

These increases indicate and clarify at the same time the expansion of developmental construction, the increase in the work force in the region, and the improved standard of living of the people. In order to confront the problem of imported inflation and to preserve the living standard of the citizens by guaranteeing the availability of consumer goods, the state assumed the role of representing the consumer with regard to staple goods in which the establishments of the socialist commercial sector deals, such as seeds, sugar, baby formula, bread, (samun), liquid vegetable oils, and other goods, so that government subsidies on the prices of these goods in 1980 increased 94 percent over 1976, and the total subsidy of these staple goods in 1981 increased 69 percent over 1980.

The huge volume of goods, in quantity and type, coming to the consumer, passes through distribution outlets spread far and wide throughout the region. These outlets found their outstanding quantitative and diversifying development because the socialist commercial sector relies on the greatest possible participation from the network of agents authorized by the establishments of the sector. At the present time they number more than 127,000, an increase of approximately 9 and 1/2 times, over their number in 1976. In addition, the sector has 180 branches, according to the 1980 statistics, and this figure represents an increase of 5 and 1/2 times over 1968.

The sector entered a phase of establishing large marketing associations to reflect the important aspects of our economic and cultural progress, after replacing some small exhibitions that are not in harmony with the position of the sector and the standard of services that need to be offered to the citizens. The sector presently has 18 associations and central markets on the level of the centers and districts of some of the provinces, and this year it will take over five central markets in Baghdad in addition to the Tuesday market founded by the secretariat of the capital.

These outstanding developments in the area of importation and marketing call for the accomplishment of great works and exceptional efforts to free ourselves from the burdensome legacy of unorganized warehouses left by the sector, by building a number of storage projects and modern storage collectives with the goal of guaranteeing necessary storage areas. The outcome of the efforts expended in this task are proven by indications that there is a rise in the volume of storage space owned or rented by the General Establishment for the Trade of Consumer Goods at an increase of approximately 51 times between 1968 and 1980, and 186 times for the General Organization for the Trade of Products for the same period.

In order to implement its plans to develop its storage capacities and to improve the competency of the performance of storage work, the sector used modern methods of preservation and delivery; arranged them in the most efficient way for the given storage capacities, the preservation of the stored goods and materials, and ease of drainage flow; and provided the agents, places of exhibition, branches, and establishments of the sector with the goods in which they deal. The sector also used the new developments in the type of storage capabilities owned by the establishments of the sector, and built refrigerated storehouses to preserve foods and other materials to ensure health stipulations in storage and preservation. The socialist commercial sector had no refrigerated storage areas until the revolution.

The Ministry of Commerce placed exceptional importance on developing projects having to do with grinding seeds and making bread and (samun), in implementation of and in accordance with the motto of the ruling party: "The nourishment of the people is a sacred need." The quantities of flour produced in mills owned by the socialist sector in 1980 compared with 1976 renewal an increase of 45 percent and an average yearly growth of 10 percent. Likewise the quantity of (samun) produced in the socialist sector mills for the same period show an increase of 327 percent and an average yearly growth of 44 percent.

These successes are linked with the continuous efforts of the Ministry of Commerce in the field of development and modernization of commercial work methods and raising the efficiency of the various activities through follow-up on the field. The expansion was carried out with the use of electronic computers in the accounting, sale, storage, and development of accounting and administrative systems on the sector level, developing work methods in the centers of the establishments, increasing their activities to yield the tasks linked to them as the agencies of planning, direction, follow-up and supervision over the work of their subsidiary establishments. Alongside this there is the serious and continual work to raise the competence of the workers and to develop their occupational and specialized capabilities through training programs.

The crowning effort expended in this field is the renovation of the commercial training center in the Ministry pursuant to Law 29 for the year 1982, as well as employing new work methods on the sector level by setting up specialized institutions in the field of foreign and domestic trade. The renovation has been completed for the Iraqi General Importation Establishment, the General Engineering Establishment, and the projects and public establishments for the central markets. The works and specialties of the Iraqi General Exportation Establishment have also been reviewed and reorganized in light of the new Ministry of Commerce Law No 113 for 1980.

By using its political and economic weight gained from Iraq's position in the Arab homeland and the countries of the Third World, the Ministry of Commerce worked to develop and broaden its commercial, economic and technical relationships within the framework of the work of the joint committees in existence between Iraq and a number of other countries of the world on all continents.

In this area, the ministry consults the central orientation of regional foreign policy and the fighting role assumed by Iraq in defense of the national causes, its support for the non-aligned movement, its developmental ambitions, its struggle against the various forms of policies of ethnic persecution and exploitation, and its active participation to establish a new international economic order, an area in which Iraq has recorded a distinguished presence in international meetings and conferences.

The Ministry of Commerce assumes important roles in the process of economic and social development in the region, by supplying goods for investment, brokerage and consumption from the establishments of foreign exportation or the local marketing necessary to implement the investment programs and production plans and to meet the needs of public and private consumption. Since the accomplishments of the revolution in the economic field represent one of the tributaries

of Iraq's great victory over the forces of the regime of fools in Tehran, the commercial sector has an active and outstanding share in building the region's economic power and strengthening its international stature. Everyone has witnessed the competence of this sector in fulfilling its assigned duties vis-a-vis the party leadership and the revolution, by guaranteeing that the needs of the battle and the citizens for various basic commodities will be met; this sector has enjoyed a positive evaluation in the report issued on the work of the Ninth Regional Conference of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, which indicated its outstanding successes in the area of supplying goods for the citizens, developing domestic commercial services, regulating price policy, and providing the basic commodities that are consumed on a wide scale.

9397

CSO: 4404/1

ASSEMBLY POSTPONES GOVERNMENT MOVES TO END SHARES CRISIS

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 35, 18 Oct 82 pp 4-5

[Text]

Kuwait's National Assembly last week deferred approval of the government's measures to resolve the crisis which has led to a multi-billion dollar crash on the country's unofficial Souk al-Manakh over-the-counter stock exchange and hit the official stock market. The decision to postpone endorsement of an Amiri decree promulgated last month came after three days of debate in which the government was urged to accept responsibility for the crisis and resign. Earlier, an assemblyman called on Commerce Minister Jassim al-Marzouk to step down. His ministry is responsible for overseeing dealings on the official exchange and has tolerated the growth of the Souk al-Manakh, where a boom in Gulf shares collapsed in July.

Political sources quoted by *Reuters* said the main objection to the decree was that assemblymen felt it favoured large investors at the expense of small ones. Prime Minister Sheikh Saad al-Abdulla al-Sabah riposted bluntly that this was not so. All those who traded in shares would be treated alike, Sheikh Saad stressed. Those who were guilty of offences faced court action.

The Amiri decree suspended bankruptcy proceedings in cases involving deals in shares and ordered the registration of all post-dated cheques within 30 days. Post-dated cheques were widely used in deals in the Souk al-Manakh to obtain unregulated credit and one estimate is that cheques with a face value of KD 20 billion (\$70 billion) are outstanding. The Assembly was called back into special session to approve the decree but decided to put off a decision until the current week while a five-man legislative committee examines alternative proposals as well as the measures of the Amiri decree. One suggestion put forward during the debate would create a special department inside Kuwait's High Court to deal exclusively with cases involving dealings in shares. It would be headed by three judges and two businessmen

or financial experts. The sources said the suggested powers of this department would include barring investors from leaving Kuwait and the right to restrict the disposal of assets by persons involved in share-dealing cases.

The Amiri decree would have given a five-member adjudication board the right to reduce the face value of cheques left over after the bulk of them had been cleared by a special company which would cancel out debts against credits. The reductions would affect the premiums, which at times ran to 300 or 400 per cent of the value of the shares being traded. Buyers agreed to pay these premiums in order to deal on credit and Finance Minister Abdul-Latif al-Hamad estimates that the eventual deficit could run as high as KD 2 billion (\$7 billion). The government has insisted that the holders of dishonoured cheques will have to bear their losses but has promised that banks and financial institutions which are hurt indirectly by the losses of their clients will receive help.

CSO: 4400/49

QULAYLAT CRITICIZES LEBANESE FRONT DEPUTY

NC232208 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon 1730 GMT 23 Oct 82

[Text] Answering a question on a statement made by the secretary general of the Lebanese Front, Deputy Edward Hunayn, on his evaluation of Arabism, Lebanon's character and the Israeli occupation and, as a result, his being critical of the president of the republic, Brother Ibrahim Qulaylat [leader of the Independent Nasirite Movement--Al-Murabitun] said the following:

1. Our movement views this stance on a two-dimensional basis. First, it has in one way or another affirmed the negativism of the secretary general of the Lebanese Front toward the positive moves of the president of the republic regarding Lebanon as an issue, and regarding its people, destiny, future and perpetuity. Thus, what has been said by Edward Hunayn embodies great danger, because it comes from the framework which links the president of the republic and the secretary general to the front which they both socially belong whether at the religious level or at the political-ideological level. We leave this contradiction aside, as long as it is within the framework which brings together the two sides--the president and his critic--so that we may be able to resolve the complications and the negative contradictions which are demonstrated in an announced stance that deals with the formula of the homeland in its entirety. Secondly, the dangerous side in Hunayn's talk lies in its being a talk dealing with [word indistinct] principled and historic precedents for Lebanon's reality at the geographic and demographic level. It is, rather, ignoring them all, relying on mistaken interpretations, particularly regarding his absolute conviction that Arabism means Islam. However, the scientific and historic facts affirm that Arab nationalism has been a political ideology since it began and it is still so. What supports these facts is history. (Al-Ghasasinah), [a pre-Islamic Arab-Christian state], for instance, formed an historic stance by embracing, politically, the ideology of Arab nationalism together with their religious creed, Christianity. They are the people who are now members of the Greek Orthodox sect. This fact negates and renders false the pretext of this connection [Arabism means Islam], particularly during this dangerous situation Lebanon is undergoing. Also, the historic facts of Arabism affirm that there were Arab Christian Maronite leaderships who played their role in the Arab nationalist struggle and directed it through successive periods in history.

2. What must be affirmed, as part of responding to the secretary general of the Lebanese Front, is the fact that what every nationalist in Lebanon demands is affected by affirming the need to build Lebanon--the democratic, scientific, modern, developed and nonsectarian state--which is for all its sons, Christians and Muslims alike, a state in which national justice and equal opportunities for all the citizens prevail.

3. Deputy Hunayn's statement that the Lebanese front is seeking to introduce into the government its other major ideas, specifically the building of Lebanon according to its present character--the continuation of the struggle to keep Lebanon's Christian character and government--this statement contradicts the Lebanese laws and the 1943 charter, which are considered by the Lebanese Front basic to coexistence in Lebanon and to building Lebanon the homeland. It also contradicts the charter of the Arab League, in which Lebanon is a founding member. The charter of the Arab League states in provision No 1, which is on establishing the league, that this league is comprised of the independent Arab states and that this charter has been ratified by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, and [word indistinct] by the president of the republic on 9 April, 1945.

4. The formula of Lebanon's structure and independence is guaranteed by national conciliation and the coexistence of the Christians and Muslims. This shows beyond any doubt a reality different from Deputy Edward Hunayn's view. This formula has, relying on the above mentioned facts as a principled foundation, crowned the fact that Lebanon is the homeland of all the Lebanese citizens and that it is governed by one kind of national conciliation and one kind of national coexistence. These historic realities have been Lebanon's characteristics in its affiliation to its Arab surroundings and its Arab political character and identity are stated in the charter of the Arab League.

5. It is strange that Deputy Hunayn finds fault in the president of the republic for not seeing positively the Israeli salvation service to Lebanon. This notion does not need much arguing. That is because the destruction of the homeland and the killing and wounding of its inhabitants remain forever testimony to the extent of the fascism which was directed against the homeland as a result of the Israeli invasion. Within this framework, it must also be asked: Can the occupation be salvation, knowing that we, as nationalist and Muslim forces, have not brought into, or been responsible for the presence of, all the forces which are now, or have been in, Lebanon.

Here, there must be a derivative conclusion that is built on the following basis: If destruction, killing and slaying are salvation, let this viewpoint be considered a personal interpretation and confined to its owners; it cannot be made general in a homeland people and territory that wants to revive its identity and affirm the continuation of its existence, sovereignty, independence and entity as factors for coexistence and the united national existence.

STATUS OF LEBANESE COMMUNITIES IN WEST AFRICA VIEWED

London WEST AFRICA in English No 3402, 18 Oct 82 pp 2709-2712

[Article by Howard Schissel]

WHILE the Asian community in Kenya is still reeling under the shock of the massive looting of their shops and homes in Nairobi on the day of the air force rebellion, the Lebanese community throughout West and Central Africa is holding its breath.

Indeed, as economic problems amplify in most African states, the position of the 100,000-plus Lebanese business community established in rich and poor countries as well as market-oriented or socialist ones along the West African coast becomes increasingly tenuous. Hostility has been openly manifest with government changes in Ghana and Liberia, but so far the Lebanese have avoided being thrown out en masse as were the Indians in Uganda by Idi Amin in the mid-1970s. There has been a groundswell of criticism, however, in recent times in such states as Senegal, Sierra Leone and the Ivory Coast over the role of the Lebanese community.

These signs are starting to trouble the leaders of the Lebanese communities in the principal West African capitals. Nonetheless, few Lebanese presently relish the prospect of returning to their strife-torn country. Most intend to hold on in Africa because their families have been established on the continent for generations making business ventures prosper by a lifetime of hard work.

The Lebanese first arrived in West Africa after the first World War, encouraged by France and Britain who sought the creation of a foreign business class to play the middleman role between the administration and the population, thereby hindering the formation of an indigenous trading community which could have advanced nationalist slogans. At independence, the

Lebanese were obliged to readapt their economic presence, moving into new sectors and forging alliances with the emerging African politicians and businessmen. In the last 20 years, the Lebanese community in most capitals has grown in number, especially in the past decade when the Lebanese civil war has brought large numbers to join their families already set up in business. When governments sought to limit this influx, the Lebanese found ways of getting around police controls and were often able to procure work and residence permits for relatives because there is always someone in the community with contacts in the right place.

In many ways the Lebanese community has come to play an identical role towards the present African ruling class as it did in the past with colonial powers. A well-known Lebanese trader in Dakar made no secret of the fact that "Senegalese big men find our assistance crucial in the pursuit of their own economic enrichment." In such arrangements, which are not just limited to Senegal, the Africans provide the political contacts while the Lebanese bring in their commercial experience and acumen as well as capital and international contacts. The Dakar-based businessman went on to add: "No matter what regime is in power, they will need the Lebanese to provide invaluable commercial services. The Ugandan experience has clearly demonstrated that the breakdown of necessary commercial activities ensures the expulsion of foreign traders."

Senegal has the oldest Lebanese community in West Africa, although its numbers have dwindled to about 23,000 due to the poor performance since independence

of the Senegalese economy. Almost two years after the voluntary retirement of President Leopold Senghor and his replacement by Abdou Diouf, the Lebanese community in Senegal is beginning to feel more at ease. It was secretly feared that infighting amongst Senegalese politicians could lead to the singling out of the Lebanese as the source of the parlous state of the economy.

While the Lebanese control a fair share of the local economy, it would be wrong to say they have a stranglehold over it. According to figures published in 1979 by the department of Commerce, Intérieur, Lebanese businessmen controlled 12 per cent of trading activity. Since this figure encompassed only Lebanese with Senegalese nationality, it is perhaps fair to say that the Lebanese control some 20 per cent

of the Senegalese trading sector. Of the 175 largest wholesalers in the country, 62 are Lebanese, 93 Senegalese and 20 French. Among the 358 wholesalers dealing in smaller quantities, 149 are Lebanese, 163 Senegalese and 46 French.

The notion that the Lebanese community is uniquely rich does not hold up to even a casual stroll around Dakar's "Lebanese ghetto" around Sandaga market. Most live, in fact, quite modestly in flats above their shops. In many cases, it is only credit arrangements with larger Lebanese traders which allow them to survive. This clientele system often recreates among the Lebanese in Africa the same clan style politics which predominate back home.

A handful of Lebanese in Senegal have succeeded in moving into big time operations. The prime example is the Filfil family, which has set up an agro-industrial complex not far from the capital employing some 900 people and registering a turnover of CFA300 million. The Bourgi family, one of whose members is city counsellor in Dakar in the ranks of the ruling Socialist Party, is active in real estate, hotels and shipping services. The Khoury family, for their part, has a well established road transport business. One subtle means which the leaders of the Lebanese community in Dakar use to maintain good relations with the government is to assist its efforts to drum up economic aid from the Arab countries in the Gulf.

The Lebanese community in Sierra Leone has established a degree of influence in the business and political spheres which is unprecedented elsewhere on the continent. Some of the country's richest individuals are Lebanese: Jamil Said

Mohammed (also a close political adviser to President Siaka Stevens), Tony Yazbeck, Ahmet Touffic, Edmond Moucatzel, Edmond Aboud (president of the local Chamber of Commerce) and Henneh Shamel. Between them, they have a firm hold on diamond purchasing, and critics say smuggling too, import-export, real estate and the retail trade.

Stevens defended the community

During the recent elections anti-Lebanese feeling reached a high point, and President Stevens publically came out in defence of the community, saying that it had been wrongly maligned. Nevertheless, Mr Stevens' own Limba group and members of the other major tribes feel that he has gone overboard in making one of the pillars of his regime the support of the Lebanese.

At one stage during the last elections, it was widely rumoured that the Lebanese or Afro-Lebanese community in Freetown would put up their own candidates to get into Parliament. Some names like lawyers Edward Akar, Eke Holloway, Francis Gabbidon and businessman Nahim Khadi came up frequently to the elections run-up. What happened at the last stage to nomination is not clear. Some residents in

Freetown say many were advised to withdraw or just abandon the plan. But critics say the Lebanese enormous influence is being seen like a cancer which is eating deep down into the power of society. They say the foreign exchange problem has even made matters worse for the indigenous businessman who finds it difficult to get on because he cannot meet up to paying the large slices of bribes often demanded by officials in high places. Some of the country's leading personalities and one prominent Lebanese can reportedly be seen queuing at the offices in London for alleged pay-offs after some big deals back in Sierra Leone.

Hans van der Laan's book, *The Lebanese Traders in Sierra Leone*, helps explain this phenomenon, which again is not just limited to Freetown. "It must be remembered", wrote van der Laan, "that an African government has more power over the private sector dominated by foreigners than over one dominated by national businessmen. This is largely due to the threat of deportation. Foreign business-

men may meekly accept measures which would infuriate local businessmen and lead to agitation."

The Lebanese community is nonetheless concerned about its future in the post-Stevens era, and has been busy consolidating contacts in the ruling All Peoples Congress (APC) as well as in the opposition and the armed forces. The financial clout of the Lebanese could be a potent weapon for influencing future events. In any case, the Lebanese would like the constitution altered to allow citizens of Lebanese extraction to stand for parliament.

To the south in neighbouring Liberia, Lebanese traders were the prime target of the rice riots in 1979 in Monrovia which culminated in the coup bringing Master Sergeant Dr. Samuel Doe to power. The 6,000-strong community was wary of the new regime, believing that it would be obliged to grant extensive favours to Liberian businessmen to consolidate its popular support. So far this has not been the case, with the Lebanese maintaining their controlling interest in the country's CEMECO cement works, the MIC furniture factory, the LIPFOCO foam mattress plant, most of Monrovia's best restaurants (including the up-market Diana and Gondola) as well as in the hotel industry.

Much of the moderation in the Doe regime relations with the Lebanese is the result of the good ties, going back several years, established between the president and Dr. Aref Kassas, the unofficial "god-father" of the Monrovia Lebanese community. Kassas, who owns the largest private clinic in the capital, met Dr. Doe when he was just commander of Monrovia's Central Prison, and at the time helped him overcome personal financial difficulties. Kassas' generosity is legendary, having donated \$100,000 in 1973 to finance an orphans home, \$50,000 to ameliorate the Monrovia prison, plus many smaller gifts. In fact, Kassas gave Doe 10,000 copies of his official photo which he had printed in Spain. Kassas, who was extremely close to both Presidents Tubman and Tolbert, is an excellent example of the versatility and political acumen of the top Lebanese in Africa.

The Ivory Coast has probably the largest Lebanese community in Africa, with estimates between 35,000-40,000. If the Lebanese have less political clout than in Liberia or Sierra Leone, their economic influence is extensive. For instance, the total of Lebanese investment in the Ivory

Coast is thought to be in the neighbourhood of CFA40 billion. According to the Abidjan branch of the Lebanese World Cultural Union, 60 per cent of Ivorian real estate is in Lebanese hands. If their role in the modern sector of the economy is marginal in comparison to French capital, the Lebanese do virtually control several areas: 83 per cent in shoes, 66 per cent in textiles, 61 per cent in petrol stations, 32 per cent in travel agencies and 25 per cent of grocery stores.

The Lebanese are concerned about the future of Ivorian politics too as President Felix Houphouet-Boigny is ageing and his successor yet to be chosen. As in Senegal, there is fear that an eventual power vacuum could create unrest and manoeuvring room for demagogic politicians with the consequence being the pinpointing of the Lebanese as scapegoats for popular discontent. The concentration of Lebanese stores at Rue Douze, Nangui-Abrogoa, Boulevard de Marseille and Boulevard Giscard d'Estaing are quite vulnerable. The wealthiest Lebanese family in the Ivory Coast is reputedly the Farhat brothers, distributors

of Honda motor vehicles.

The Lebanese community in Ghana is small, only about 2,500, but has been on its guard since the return to power of Jerry Rawlings. During his first passage as head of government, a serious polemic developed between Rawlings and the Lebanese community. They were accused of "unethical" trading practices, corruption and speculating against the Ghanaian currency, the cedi. Some Lebanese in Accra readily admit that not all the allegations about the detrimental role played by some of the members of the community are baseless. Many of the less reputable Lebanese left after the first Rawlings government, and interestingly enough over the past nine months the Lebanese have not been in the firing line of his second government.

While the Head of state has lashed out against the commercial practices of market mammals and government officials, not a word has been said against the Lebanese.

This state of affairs has literally astonished the intrepid Lebanese businessmen hanging on in Accra. Some observers of the Ghanaian political scene attribute this *modus vivendi* between Rawlings and the Lebanese, to the links his regime has developed with Libya. Nonetheless, few Lebanese are interested in remaining in Ghana given the clouds overhanging the country's political future and the parlous

state of the economy.

In Nigeria, the Lebanese community has fared well and largely benefitted from the country's oil boom in the past decade. Much of their success can be chalked up to eluding the restrictive legislation passed in view of trimming down their commercial activities in order to advantage local businessmen. In particular, a decree under a military regime required a minimum 40 per cent Nigerian participation in business where joint ventures were still deemed necessary. In numerous cases, the indigenous businessmen were utilised as simple fronts, with all the capital being provided by the Lebanese but registration being placed under the name of the Nigerian citizen.

In fact, in a 1975 report by the Industrial Enterprises Promotion Panel of Inquiry it was underscored that: "In most instances, the devices employed by foreign owners could not have worked without the active support and connivance of some misguided Nigerians." The Nigerian *Daily Times*, for its part, pointed out that there were at least 24 "legitimate" ways of conveniently circumventing the indigenisation legislation. Since the election of President Shehu Shagari, relations between the government and the Lebanese community have been out of the headlines.

What does the future hold for the Lebanese communities in Africa? A Ghanaian economist believes that "the original conditions that enabled them to flourish no longer exist." He adds: "We are entering a period of social upheavals in Africa, because the years of independence have built up the wealth of the few at the expense of the majority and in any social explosions the Lebanese, as the Asians in East Africa, are likely to be the principal targets because they are visible and vulnerable."

An important Lebanese businessman in Dakar has a different opinion. In his view, the better-placed elements of the community can look to the future without excessive apprehension, but the more vulnerable petty traders will, sooner or later, be seriously affected by the winds of change blowing throughout Africa. "It is certain that the number of Lebanese in Africa will decline by the end of the century", he reckons, quickly adding: "Those who believe that the Lebanese are going to be eliminated from the commanding heights of the commercial sector in West African countries are taking their desires for reality."

LEBANON

ARMENIAN GROUP DENIES LINKS WITH ARMENIANS ARRESTED IN U.S.

NC241514 Paris AFP in English 1425 GMT 24 Oct 82

[Text] Beirut, 24 Oct (AFP)--A clandestine Armenian group, the Justice Commandos of Armenian Genocide, today denied that five Armenians recently arrested in the United States in connection with bomb attacks against Turkish diplomats there, belonged to the group.

In an anonymous telephone call to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here, a man claiming to be a spokesman for the group said: "The five people arrested have no connection with us."

The Justice Commandos are convinced, he said, that "Turkey had pressured" the U.S. authorities to arrest young Armenians "regardless of their political membership."

A spokesman for the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said yesterday that four Armenians suspected of responsibility in bomb attacks in the United States had been arrested in Los Angeles and a fifth in Boston.

Responsibility for several bombing attacks in California during the past two years has been claimed by a group calling itself the Justice Commandos of Armenian Genocide.

Turkey's consul general in Los Angeles, Kemal Arikav, was killed in January while the Turkish consul in Boston, Orhan Gunduz, was killed in that city in May.

CSO: 4400/47

PALESTINIANS IN SOUTH DISSATISFIED WITH RELIEF

NC221014 Paris AFP in English 0957 GMT 22 Oct 82

[Text] Sidon, Southern Lebanon, 21 Oct (AFP)--Palestinian refugees in camps in southern Lebanon have refused to spend the winter under tents and are demanding new houses to replace homes destroyed in the Israeli bombings last summer.

In the Ayn al-Hilwah Camp, south of Sidon, clashes erupted in Wednesday between refugees and United Nations employees of UNRWA (United Nations Rehabilitation and Works Agency), which specializes in dealing with Palestinian refugees. UN engineers were prevented from pitching a tent to house their office by a crowd of stone-throwing young Palestinians shouting: "We want houses."

One young man, venting his anger, yelled after an Israeli sentry: "We're in the 20th century and we're human beings.... Even dogs are given kennels."

Yesterday in the camp feelings were still running high: "They're trying to push us back 34 years just like in 1948. But we won't accept it. Our houses were destroyed four months ago and now we're told it's too late to build properly. They've nothing but contempt for us," another man complained.

The Palestinians' anger is fuelled by uncertainty about the future. A school teacher showing his ruined house said he was ready to rebuild it if he could be sure of staying there: "I'm willing to spend all my savings on building a new house. But I want to know where we'll be in six months' time. I want to know if this camp will still exist, or if I will be transferred somewhere else again. Nobody will answer us...."

Further south at Ar-Rashidiyah near Tyre, there was the same feeling of revolt. As the bulldozers razed the bombed ruins and smoothed over the ground, a doctor at the camp hospital said categorically: "We'd rather sleep out in the sun and rain than under tents. It's a matter of dignity. We're not nomads."

Even the Israeli-appointed mayor of Ar-Rashidiyah, Kayid expressed his refusal to accept the housing conditions: "In this camp there are mainly

"women and children and elderly people. The men are prisoners. How will the women live," he asked.

The mayor said he hoped the Palestinians would be given prefabricated houses like those built in surrounding Lebanese villages.

At UNRWA, officials played down the tension in the camps. "Obviously prefabricated houses would be better than tents. But that's all we've got to give them," Denis Brown, the UNRWA boss in Sidon said.

Mr Brown said the reports of discontent were exaggerated. He said there were more requests for tents than there were tents available.

But he said he would call for Israeli army protection when the tents were installed in the camp "to stop a militant handful of Palestinians preventing those who wish to live in the tents from doing so."

In the 21 hectare (52 acre) 'Ayn al-Hilwah Camp, Mr Brown said he intended to pitch between 1,800 and 2,000 tents, each four by four meters (yards) and capable of housing six people.

As for houses, he said the less badly damaged houses had not been bulldozed and that some others had been left for the engineers to survey.

There was a similar optimism among UN officials at Tyre. One, Paul David, said Wednesday's incidents at 'Ayn al-Hilwah had been sparked by "rumours that the Israelis were ready to give the refugees prefabricated homes." But these were merely "rumours," he said.

In Tyre there are three Palestinian camps with a total of 22,000 people, half of whom are homeless. Mr David said he was convinced these people would accept the tents because there was no other solution.

All the tents were being brought from Pakistan via Cyprus and Haifa in Israel and were scheduled to be installed by mid-December.

Meanwhile, in west Beirut and the southern suburbs of the Lebanese capital, squatters have invaded over 13,000 flats and other property, according to the complaints flooding in to the authorities.

Damage done by the squatters was estimated at 220 million Lebanese pounds (50 million dollars).

CSO: 4400/47

BRIEFS

ISRAELI DONATION FOR HOSPITAL REJECTED--Lebanese authorities rejected a donation of \$25,000 from the Public Committee for Lebanon meant to reequip the government hospital's laboratory in Sidon. The Lebanese authorities announced that they will not accept donations from Israel. The announcement of this was passed to Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Aharon Sarig through the aid officials in Lebanon. The Public Committee for Lebanon is an inter-religion body comprising Jerusalem residents, representatives of Christian and Jewish religious leaders in Jerusalem and THE JERUSALEM POST. In the past, the committee passed on clothes intended for the refugees. It was also revealed that the Israeli authorities are finding it hard to open the hospital in Sidon because the Lebanese doctors refuse to cooperate with the Israelis. [Report by Lili Galili] [Text] [TA211150 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Oct 82 p 3]

ISRAELI PRODUCTS BOYCOTT APPEAL--Economy and Trade Minister Ibrahim Halawah and Chairman of the Beirut Chamber of Commerce and Industry 'Adnan al-Qassar have addressed a joint appeal, calling on all citizens to exercise good citizenship and stop promoting or buying any Israeli products in view of the grave damage they cause to the national economy. [Text] [NC221119 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 22 Oct 82]

PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARMY ALLEGED--Justice and Information Minister Roger Shaykhani said today that the continuing campaign against the Lebanese army in some European and Arab newspapers aims at undermining the military institution, which is working to impose the state's authority and the rule of law and to ensure the citizens' security and protection. [Text] [NC281948 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Oct 82]

CSO: 4400/47

TUNNEL CONSTRUCTION FAVORED

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 36, 18 Oct 82 pp 7, 8

[Text]

The joint commission set up by Spain and Morocco to study the possibilities of linking the two countries via the Straits of Gibraltar has come down in favour of a tunnel rather than a bridge, it was reported from Madrid. The commission envisages three parallel rail tunnels extending for 47 kilometres, of which 26 kilometres would run beneath the sea-bed, from Ponta Paloma on the Spanish side to Ponta al-Taris northeast of Tangier.

Construction of the tunnel is expected to take 20 years to complete, at an estimated cost of over \$1 billion. Excavation is due to begin in 1985, but a number of problems must first be overcome. On the technical side, these centre on the depth of the channel to be crossed. At the narrowest point of 15 kilometres, the Straits are up to 900 metres deep, compared to depths of around 300 metres at the location selected by the commission, where the channel is 25 kilometres wide.

But the biggest question-mark hangs over the financing of the project, which was first mooted during the Second World War. Spain and Morocco apparently believe that the investment could quickly be recovered from revenues raised by transit rights, pointing out that in 1978 some 700,000 travellers and 4 million tonnes of goods crossed the Straits. In addition, the inauguration of a direct link between Africa and Europe might be expected to have a stimulating effect on trade. But it may be worth recalling that the much older and perhaps more economically attractive idea of connecting Britain with continental Europe has hitherto failed to make headway against formidable technical, financial and political obstacles.

CSO: 4500/22

ECONOMIC CRISIS CAUSES SWITCH FROM REFINERY TO PIPELINE

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 36, 18 Oct 82 pp 9, 10

[Text]

Earnings from a new oil project planned by Sudan could cover almost half the country's oil import bill by 1985, according to Sudanese Oil Minister Sharif el-Tuhami. The Sudanese government and the US company Chevron Overseas Petroleum recently announced plans to build a 1,440-kilometre pipeline linking Chevron's Unity field in southwestern Sudan to Port Sudan on the Red Sea coast, where an oil export terminal is to be constructed (*An-Nahar Arab Report & MEMO*, September 20).

The decision is seen as a major change in Sudan's oil strategy, which had previously centred on a \$900 million refinery project at Kosti, south of Khartoum, where construction was due to begin next year. But rather than seeking to refine domestic crude as a substitute for costly oil imports, the government has had to opt for a pipeline, which will bring a quicker return on investment. Mr Tuhami said that the pipeline, expected to be finished in 1985, would initially carry 50,000 b/d of oil, of which about 5,000 would be refined at a topping plant to be built at Kosti to help meet domestic needs, with the rest going for export.

Exports will earn an estimated \$200 million a year in foreign exchange, which will help pay Sudan's current oil import bill of some \$450 million, the Oil Minister said. Heavily dependent on imported oil, Sudan has seen its oil bill jump from \$116 million in 1976-77 to about \$500 million last year. The government's pressing balance of payments difficulties have clearly influenced the choice of a pipeline, expected to cost about the same as the projected refinery. In addition, it is understood that investors, mindful of Khartoum's continuing inability to service its massive foreign debt, were unwilling to finance the refining venture.

The new plans provide for a 22-inch pipeline from the Unity field to the Red Sea, with a parallel

8-inch line to carry gas oil or kerosene from the 26,000 b/d Port Sudan refinery to blend with the heavy Sudanese crude so that it can be pumped to the coast, and to help meet local needs. The capacity of the main pipe could be raised to 100,000 b/d if this were justified by future production developments.

Chevron, a subsidiary of Standard Oil of California, discovered the promising Unity field in 1980, five years after it began exploration in Sudan; new finds have, in the government's view, made the pipeline feasible. It says that drilling tests have proven a flow of 2,800 b/d in the Unity 9 field, claiming that other wells being tested promise "far more flow." Over-optimism in Khartoum and elsewhere has occasionally produced inflated estimates of Sudan's reserves, but Chevron itself takes a more cautious line. A spokesman recently warned that, technically speaking, no proven reserves at all can be said to exist, since it had not been confirmed that water-flooded techniques work in Sudan.

However, Chevron President Al Martini last week put total reserves at 200-300 million barrels, including 150 million bbls for the Unity field. He added that his company had spent more than \$500 million on exploration in Sudan and had high hopes of further discoveries. Present reserves in Chevron's concession area are regarded as insufficient for an export industry based on refined products.

The pipeline will be financed by the White Nile Petroleum Company, in which Chevron and the government each have a 45 per cent stake. Other shareholders are the World Bank's International Finance Corporation and the Arab Petroleum Investment Corporation, each with 5 per cent. WNPC was set up in 1980 to carry out the refinery project and bidding for the pipeline is to be restricted to the consortia short-listed for the shelved venture, though they may take on new partners if required. Lead companies of the consortia are Japan's JGC Corporation, Mannesmann of West Germany, Italy's Snamprogetti, Technip of France and Tecnicas Reunidas of Spain.

Meanwhile, Sudan is facing a chronic fuel shortage since the government has no cash to pay for imports. Last January, when popular unrest with the government's economic policy threatened to loosen President Jaafar Numeiri's grip on power, Saudi Arabia donated three months supply. Then local and foreign banks were prevailed on to help finance another three months supply worth \$84 million. This method failed next time round and instead the Faisal Islamic Bank (FIB) agreed to buy 50,000 tonnes of mainly unrefined gasoline from Saudi Arabia's Petromin to be resold to Sudan's state-owned General Petroleum Corporation at a 5 per cent mark-up. The Geneva-based Dar al-Mar al-Islamia is providing \$10 million out of the \$14 million needed, with the rest supplied by the FIB. The arrangement, however, will cover requirements only for the first few weeks of this month. Egypt is reported to have come forward with 150,000 tonnes of free oil, but it was not clear when this was to be supplied.

SYRIA

DAMASCUS RADIO SCORNS U.S. STANCE ON PLO

JN271436 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Oct 82

[From "On the Events" program]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger has said that although there is a Palestinian issue, it must be separated from the PLO. This is closely related to reports by the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RAY, which quoted some U.S. sources as saying that Washington had explained to the Arab League delegation, which recently held talks with President Reagan, that there is no need for U.S. recognition of the PLO because some Arab sides will negotiate on the issues of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

This means that the United States will concentrate its moves through the Reagan plan to find a replacement for the PLO represented by an Arab regime which will negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians. The main task of such a regime would be to eliminate the possibility of the establishment of an independent Palestinian state because such an independent state would constitute, according to U.S. calculations, a strategic threat to Israel's security and U.S. policy in the region.

Thus, we can clearly see why President Reagan considered the Israeli invasion of Lebanon merely a defensive operation. Weinberger said that the military liquidation of the PLO in Beirut did not result in any diplomatic gain by the PLO.

Thus, it becomes clear that the decision to deal a military blow to the PLO was as much a U.S. decision as it was an Israeli one. Thus, we can understand the meaning of the conformity of U.S.-Israeli positions in Lebanon, because U.S.-Israeli calculations are based on the fact that weakening the PLO militarily would result in weakening or cancelling its political role. This would open the door for finding a replacement for the PLO to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinian people through the Reagan plan or the autonomy rule in accordance with Begin's plan contained in the Camp David agreement.

The conspiracy to liquidate the national rights of the Palestinian people depends mainly on weakening the Palestinian struggle, embodied by the PLO, and dealing with the Palestinian issue as one of refugees. This is the main and real motive behind U.S. objection to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state led by the PLO.

CSO: 4400/47

SYRIA

SYRIAN DAILY SCORES U.S. INTEREST IN LEBANON

JN270712 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Oct 82

[From the press review]

[Text] On the situation in Lebanon, today's ATH-THAWRAH editorial says: One look at the situation in Lebanon stresses that the Lebanese decision should take into consideration the Israeli gun and tank which have a free hand in many parts of Lebanon. The Lebanese administration cannot express itself freely under the canopy of Israeli weapons. This means that any important decision by Lebanon will certainly be affected by the impact of the Israeli occupation. Therefore, it has become absolutely clear that freeing the Lebanese decision is basically linked with working for expelling the Zionist occupiers and that Lebanon's salvation is linked with the struggle to punish and not reward the Israeli aggressors.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: This also applies to the United States. It is illogical to grant Washington the status of the first friend and savior after having fanned the fire of civil war in Lebanon, obstructed for years any progress toward a solution to the Lebanese crisis, encouraged, protected and supported the Israeli occupation of Lebanon and destroyed Lebanon's cities and villages with its weapons. The United States cannot be a friend of Lebanon because it has sided with Israel and antagonized the Arabs, including Lebanon.

The sudden U.S. interest in Lebanon expresses the Pentagon's desire to get a foothold east of the Mediterranean and to help the Zionist entity occupy the largest possible area of Arab lands. We must not be deluded by Washington's ambitions to turn Lebanon into a U.S. protectorate robbed of its will and deprived of its role or influence.

Concluding, ATH-THAWRAH says: Syria cares for Lebanon's unity, Arabism and safety. Syria will support any step which helps preserve Lebanon's freedom and independence and prevents it from turning into a springboard for the imperialist-Zionist plots in the region. Meanwhile, Syria will spare no effort to strengthen its special relations with Lebanon and to bolster Lebanon's Arab and international status in the interest of the Arab nation's causes.

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JORDAN SEEKS TO 'TAME' PALESTINIANS

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[Palestine broadcast: Unattributed talk]

[Text] One thing is certain, that the Palestinian revolution will not be misled and that Arab reaction--which is linked to imperialism, has openly plotted against the Palestinian revolution and explicitly connived with the Zionist invasion--will not succeed in confiscating the revolution or in ensnaring it in the trap that has been set for it, thereby destroying it. The revolution's long experience will certainly help it to avoid all the obstacles on the road.

In 1948, the Palestinian people had their own armed popular groups, there were brothers then, such as King 'Abdallah, who used to talk about the unbreakable historical bonds. Those brothers' armies took part in the 1948 battles in Palestine. The question remains, however: What have the reactionary brothers done?

They disarmed the Palestinian fighter under the pretext that their armies could expel the Zionist gangs [from Palestine]. They connived with the enemy against the Palestinians and, consequently, handed over Lod and Ramla [to the enemy] without a fight. They even withdraw from the triangle area without a fight. They pretended to be generous until it was time for the Jericho Conference [at which unity of the West Bank and trans-Jordan was proclaimed], and then they burned the backs of the Palestinians with their whips. They asked the Palestinians to endure suffering and pain in return for their protection of the West Bank and the city of Jerusalem; and then in 1967 they failed to defend the West Bank and Jerusalem, and the result was that the enemy occupied the entire land of Palestine. They killed Ahmad Musa, the first martyr of the Palestinian revolution, and later they killed thousands and thousands of the people in the events of Black September, and, eventually, forced the revolution to leave.

This was a brief review of the history of the love they harbor for the Palestinians. The Palestinians know by heart the details of those events and the circumstances that preceded the Black September incidents. The Palestinians recall the William Rogers initiative, the alternative state plans, the alleged race and the massacres.

The Palestinian people sacrificed thousands of martyrs in the pre-Rogers initiative period. The result was that the Rogers initiative evaporated. Nowadays, some people want to drag the Palestinian revolution into the Arab reactionary trench in order to reap the fruits they anticipate from Mr Reagan's initiative, as they like to say. By doing so, the reactionaries are actually playing two cards together. One card they flourish in the form of a unity formula, and the other card, the details of which they prefer to 'hide,' is the Reagan initiative, or in other words, the Camp David card, which attempts to confiscate the independence of the Palestinian decision and to prevent the PLO from representing the Palestinian people. If they succeed in doing this, they would then manage to force the Palestinians to yield to U.S. policy.

Who is against unity, in the first place? The Palestinian Arabs are for Arab unity. Yet, they are against attempts to confiscate their freedom of choice. They can never hand over their freedom of choice to those who are plotting against the Palestinian national cause. The Palestinians support unity, provided that it represents the choice of struggle. The latter type of unity means to share fighting, to share in shouldering the burdens, to share the responsibilities and, in brief, to share everything.

Is what is being proposed to the Palestinian revolution a real sharing of everything, or is it an attempt to confiscate the revolution's free will? Or, is it an attempt to stir up conflicts and cause rifts in the body of the revolution? Or, is it an attempt to create differences between the revolution and its true friends and allies? Or, is it an attempt to tame the revolution and make it yield to the demands of Mr Reagan?

The Palestinians will not miscalculate things because the Palestinians' aspirations are not restricted to the attainment of a passport.

No matter what happens, the Palestinians will neither relinquish their own sacred cause nor give up their own revolutionary nationalist volition.

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END